UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/353
12 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Item 21 (b) of the provisional agenda*

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Situation in Rwanda: international assistance for a solution to the problems of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in Rwanda

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	3
II.	SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS FROM JANUARY 1995 TO AUGUST 1996	4 - 27	3
	A. Repatriation and refugees	4 - 11	3
	B. Justice	12 - 21	5
	C. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and socio-economic development	22 - 27	7
III.	HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT RESPONSES PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY	28 - 79	8
	A. Assistance by Member States and other donors	28 - 29	8

* A/51/150.

96-23933 (E) 011096 091096 141096

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
B. Assistance by organizations of the United Nations system	30 - 69	8
C. Assistance by intergovernmental organizations and others	70 - 77	17
D. Assistance by non-governmental organizations	78 - 79	18
IV. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS	80 - 86	19
Annex. Assistance by Member States and other donors		21

/

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/58 L of 22 December 1995 on international assistance for a solution to the problem of refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development in Rwanda. In the resolution, the Assembly encouraged the Government of Rwanda to pursue its efforts to create conditions conducive to the return of refugees and to the recovery by displaced persons of their property in peace, security and dignity. The Assembly welcomed the increased commitments and funds pledged for the Government's Programme of National Reconciliation and Socio-economic Rehabilitation and Recovery and called upon the international community to continue to support the rehabilitation process of Rwanda.

2. The General Assembly further welcomed the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel, including personnel of non-governmental organizations, operating in Rwanda, and urged all States, United Nations organizations, specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international financial and development institutions to provide all possible financial, technical and material assistance to Rwanda.

3. The General Assembly called upon all States to act in accordance with the recommendations adopted by the Nairobi Summit of January 1995, the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura in February 1995, and those contained in the Cairo Declaration adopted at the summit of heads of State of the Great Lakes region, held at Cairo in November 1995.

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS FROM JANUARY 1995 TO AUGUST 1996

A. Repatriation and refugees

4. The safe repatriation of Rwandese refugees continues to be viewed as an essential component to the stability in Rwanda and the region in general. The concepts accepted in the Nairobi Declaration in January 1995, in the Plan of Action of the Bujumbura Conference in February 1995 and included in the Tripartite Agreements between Rwanda, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and neighbouring countries were reaffirmed at several international meetings between mid-1995 and mid-1996. Participants in the Tripartite Commissions, the Addis Ababa follow-up meeting to the Bujumbura Conference in February 1996, the summit of the heads of State of the Great Lakes region in Tunis in March 1996 and the Steering Committee meeting in Geneva in May 1996 expressed their frustration at the absence of wide-scale repatriation of Rwandan refugees and recommended further measures to improve the return rate.

5. An Organization of African Unity (OAU)/UNHCR follow-up meeting was held in Addis Ababa on 29 February 1996 to review the progress made since the Bujumbura Conference of February 1995. Co-chaired by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Secretary-General of OAU, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the

meeting gathered representatives of 59 European and African Governments to discuss the crises in Rwanda and Burundi. The participants appealed for increased coordination between ongoing initiatives to address the problems in Burundi and renewed calls for Rwanda to intensify confidence-building measures through contacts with refugees at all levels, particularly through visits by Rwandan authorities to Zaire. A Steering Committee of 10 members mandated by the Addis Ababa meeting to monitor the implementation of the Bujumbura Plan of Action noted, at its first meeting in May 1996, the growing number of international initiatives to address the issue, and stressed the need for increased refugee visits and the adoption of proposed legislation on genocide in Rwanda.

6. UNHCR registered 99,791 returnees to Rwanda between 1 January and 20 August 1996. This figure includes 20,414 old caseload refugees (1959 and subsequent years) and 79,377 new caseload refugees (1994). In July 1996, some 15,000 refugees were forcefully expelled from Burundi.

7. The month of August saw the highest monthly repatriation figures since the exodus of 1994, with over 51,000 refugees returning from Burundi. Repatriation figures dropped from 23,428 in February to 4,886 in March and remained steady through June, with an average of 4,000 returnees per month. The higher figures for August are explained in part by the prevailing security situation in Burundi, strong persuasion from local government authorities, a relatively low rate of arrest of those refugees who returned to Rwanda in July 1996, and the need to return before the planting season. Overall, however, repatriation figures for the period January to August 1996 are some 30 per cent lower than for the same period in 1995.

8. Government officials in Rwanda believe that the stagnation of repatriation may be attributable to an escalation in propaganda and intimidation tactics by former government leaders in the refugee camps. Though some rumours circulating in the camps about conditions in Rwanda may be far-fetched and designed solely to frighten the refugee population, there is concern among United Nations and non-governmental organizations that the judicial system of Rwanda is far from adequate. Organizations and agencies are concerned that some people have been arrested in an arbitrary manner and not been given access to due legal process. Furthermore, the progress in the trial of genocide suspects has been slow. However, the passing of the law on genocide trials in August 1996 by the National Assembly represents a very positive development.

9. In keeping with the conclusions of the Tripartite Commission meeting in December 1995 between Zaire, Rwanda and UNHCR, specific measures designed to boost the number of voluntary returns were put in place in February 1996. One effective means of fostering repatriation has been the organization of cross-border visits of refugees, returnees and government authorities. Following a visit by the Prime Minister of Rwanda to camps in the United Republic of Tanzania in February 1996, the figures on repatriation from that country doubled from January to February. A UNHCR video campaign providing refugees with documentary images of their home communes has contributed to dispelling fears and increasing repatriation rates.

10. The reception capacity created for large-scale repatriation to Rwanda remains in place. Infrastructure set up throughout the country to receive and register large numbers of returnees, distribute take-home kits, and transport returnees to their home communes is being maintained.

11. During the reporting period, violent conflicts in countries neighbouring Rwanda have caused many people to seek refuge in Rwanda. Between mid-March 1996 and July 1996, an influx of over 15,000 Zairians fleeing the fighting in the Masisi and Rutshuru region of Zaire sought refuge in north-western Gisenyi Prefecture of Rwanda. These Zairians of Banyarwanda origin were settled by the Government of Rwanda at a location close to the Zairian border. In late June 1996, over 4,000 predominantly Hutu refugees from Burundi arrived in Cyangugu Prefecture in south-western Rwanda, to escape escalation in violence in the Cibitoke region of north-western Burundi. In addition, there have been some 2,500 Burundian refugees in Rwanda since October 1993. Of these groups of Burundian refugees, over 900 have returned to Burundi voluntarily.

B. Justice

12. Progress has been made towards the establishment of a functioning justice system in Rwanda. Intensive recruitment and training programmes have attempted to compensate for the serious shortfall in trained personnel at every level. The international community has also aided the material needs of the devastated justice system, and provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice and to the prosecution authorities. Legislation necessary for the establishment of a High Judicial Council (Conseil supérieur de la Magistrature), governing the functioning of the Supreme Court and creating the Rwandan Bar has been enacted by the National Assembly. Few courts, however, were yet functioning by mid-1996.

13. In August, the National Assembly enacted legislation to organize genocide prosecutions. The act classifies offences into four categories, and provides for the reduction of penalties for all except the planners and organizers of genocide if they plead guilty. Genocide cases will be tried by specialized chambers of the First Instance Courts (Tribunaux de première instance).

14. The total detainee population continued to increase, and at the end of July 1996 numbered over 78,510, with more than 25,000 held in local detention centres (cachots), where overcrowding increased and conditions deteriorated sharply in the first half of 1996. Disease and deaths in local detention centres, some of them resulting from suffocation due to extreme overcrowding, increased. These centres are usually quite small and were never intended or equipped to house such large numbers of detainees for extended periods.

15. The central prisons of Rwanda remain grossly overcrowded. Prison capacity has been expanded and conditions have improved since 1995, when the conditions in prisons prompted the international community to provide assistance to the Government's programme of opening additional centres of detention, as well as extending and rehabilitating existing prisons. These projects, some of which are still in progress, are estimated by the Government to increase prison capacity by 25,000 to around 40,000. However, at the end of July 1996, when the

capacity of the central prisons was estimated to be about 28,700, they held over 52,000 detainees. Health conditions, however, have improved and the high mortality rate of 1995 in the central prisons has fallen substantially. Nevertheless, conditions in prisons remain a matter of concern.

16. Most of those imprisoned were arrested by the army or by local administrative officials. Although progress has now been made in the training and deployment of judicial police investigators, gendarmes and communal police, many arrests have continued to be made outside legal procedures. In May 1996, the National Assembly enacted a law retrospectively legalizing all arrests and detention since April 1994, extending the time limits and removing the right of appeal against detention decisions until July 1999.

17. Little progress has been made in the screening of detainees held on accusations of involvement in genocide. The deployment of judicial officials has led to some progress in the preparation of case files, but few decisions to release. The screening commissions (commissions de triage) reviewed only a very small number of cases, despite decisions of the Ministry of Justice to reinforce them and create screening commissions in each commune.

18. In June 1996, the Government of Rwanda announced its decision to release some 400 children, held in prisons and jails, most of whom had been accused of genocide. All were under the age of 15, the age of criminal responsibility in Rwanda, at the time of their alleged crime. The released minors are being sent to Gitega Rehabilitation Centre administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The transfer represents an important step in the strengthening of the justice system in the country and the implementation by Rwanda of basic human rights principles.

19. The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has continued its investigations. In December 1995, the first indictment was issued. In January 1996, the Tribunal held its second plenary session in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, and in February two additional indictments were announced. Arrest warrants were issued and temporary arrangements made for detainees awaiting trial pending the construction of permanent facilities in Arusha.

20. In February 1996, the Security Council appointed Justice Louise Arbour (Canada) as Prosecutor of the Tribunal, to succeed Justice Richard Goldstone (South Africa), whose resignation will take effect on 1 October 1996.

21. In April 1996, the Tribunal and the Government of Rwanda reached agreement on the rental of the Amahoro Hotel in Kigali, previously occupied by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). Agreement was also reached on the protection of personnel, premises and investigation teams of the Tribunal, the security and protection of which will rest primarily with the Government of Rwanda.

C. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and socio-economic development

22. The Government of Rwanda presented its medium-term development plan for 1996-1998 to donor countries and multilateral organizations at the round-table conference held at Geneva in June 1996, at which over US$ 617 million was pledged. Combined with the outcome of the previous round-table conference of January 1995, total pledges now amount to over US$ 2 billion, of which about US$ 600 million had been disbursed by donors as of June 1996. A large part of the resources pledged for Rwanda will be disbursed for development projects that will be executed over a period of up to five years. In the short term, depending on the allocation of funds pledged, Rwanda might still need additional resources to cover expected balance-of-payments deficits.

23. Earlier, in November 1995, the Government of Rwanda presented its Accelerated Plan of Action for the Repatriation, Reinstallation and Reintegration of Refugees and Formerly Displaced Persons at the Thematic Consultation on Repatriation, Reinstallation and Social Reintegration, held at Kigali in November 1995.

24. Inside Rwanda, housing remains a problem for returnees, particularly for the old caseload, despite the efforts of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide shelter materials. The high degree of housing destruction during the 1994 events has led to a serious housing shortage. Of the estimated 800,000 old caseload returnees who have returned to Rwanda since July 1994, thousands have been forced to occupy the houses and fields abandoned by Rwandans who had fled in 1994. When those people return from the refugee camps, they often encounter difficulties in recovering their property. This conflict has discouraged many refugees from returning to Rwanda. Local authorities, with the help of United Nations agencies, are attempting to ensure that new caseload returnees recover their homes by providing shelter and land to homeless old caseload returnees. Nevertheless, serious problems remain, particularly in urban areas. The Government of Rwanda has completed the identification of 97 suitable resettlement sites, and work is now being undertaken on shelter, medical, educational and water facilities at 10 such sites.

25. A Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/World Food Programme (WFP) mission in June 1996 to assess the 1996 second-season food crops found that agricultural production had continued to improve but remained well below pre-war levels. Close to 600,000 people remain in need of food assistance. This includes returnees, vulnerable groups and those participating in food-for-work schemes. FAO and WFP estimate that agricultural production increased by 15 per cent in 1996 compared with 1995, owing to the increased amount of land cultivated by returned refugees, the improved security in the country, and the assistance provided by the international community in the form of seeds and agricultural tools. However, agricultural production remains 23 per cent below that of the 1990 pre-war levels.

26. Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 25 per cent in 1995 compared with 1994, reaching a level of 60 per cent of the 1990 level. At the end of 1995, annual budgetary revenue is estimated to have reached a total of

RF 23.1 billion (US$ 80 million), surpassing the target of RF 19.4 billion (US$ 66.9 million) projected with IMF assistance in June 1995. In 1996, real GDP is expected to reach about 70 per cent of the pre-crisis level. As in the past, the largest components of the 1995 revenue came from taxes on goods and services and on international trade, 43 and 39 per cent respectively. On the spending side, military expenditure has accounted for 4.5 per cent of GDP, a relatively high ratio by international standards. The Government will, however, have incurred a total budget deficit (commitment basis) of RF 17.2 billion, against initial estimates of RF 21.8 billion. This reduced deficit has been achieved through both higher revenue collection and lower expenditure than anticipated.

27. The Government of Rwanda intends to continue the liberalization of the economy, establish a proper regulatory framework for the private sector and disengage from the productive sector. More substantial support to the private sector will also be needed to recover the pre-war level of industrial production by 1998.

III. HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT RESPONSES PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

A. Assistance by Member States and other donors

28. In 1995, the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for persons affected by the crisis in Rwanda identified requirements for Rwanda and the subregion totalling US$ 668 million. As at February 1996, when the appeal expired, a total of US$ 535 million had been received from the international community in contributions and pledges for the assistance programmes of the United Nations system and its humanitarian partners.

29. On 30 May 1995, the Secretary-General invited Member States and other donors to provide information on assistance extended to Rwanda in the framework of General Assembly resolution 50/58 L of 22 December 1995. The replies received are attached in the annex to the present document.

B. Assistance by organizations of the United Nations system

Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat

30. The United Nations Rwanda Emergency Office (UNREO), established in November 1994 in the wake of the genocide, was phased out in October 1995. Its mandate was to coordinate emergency relief assistance to affected populations within Rwanda and to develop strategies for the reintegration of some 750,000 internally displaced people. Through the establishment of the Integrated Operations centre within the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration, the Emergency Office enabled the Government of Rwanda to effectively manage the reintegration of the internally displaced people. At the end of 1995, all camps for displaced persons had been closed and the majority of the people returned to their home communes. As of November 1995, the UNDP Resident Coordinator assumed the responsibilities of the Humanitarian Coordinator. Remaining staff of the

Emergency Office, vehicles and communication equipment were placed in the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator as well as with the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration.

31. The Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator, supported by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, is providing substantive assistance in humanitarian contingency planning, coordination and reporting. The Office also monitors the overall humanitarian situation in Rwanda, alerts the international community to problems and shortfalls in humanitarian assistance and identifies gaps where more assistance is required.

32. The need for timely reporting and dissemination of information on the situation in Rwanda and the wider Great Lakes region has led the department to establish an Integrated Regional Information Network, based in Nairobi, to promote information exchange, emergency preparedness and a regional analysis of humanitarian developments in the Great Lakes region as a whole. In particular, its links with the Offices of the Humanitarian Coordinators in the region provide a comprehensive coordination framework for programmes focusing on the region as a whole.

Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat

33. The mandate of UNAMIR expired on 8 March 1996. During the final period of its mandate, UNAMIR facilitated the safe return and resettlement of refugees in their home communes and supported the provision of humanitarian services to the people of Rwanda. UNAMIR troops also contributed to the security of the personnel of the International Tribunal and the Human Rights Field Operation. In June 1996, agreement was reached with the Government on the modalities of establishing a United Nations Office for Rwanda (UNOR), consistent with Security Council resolution 1050 (1996) of 23 April 1996. The Office is to be headed by the Secretary-General's Special Representative. Information on this has been presented more fully in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/1996/286).

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

34. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has maintained his Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda, notwithstanding the uncertainties of funding resulting from its dependence on voluntary contributions. The Operation had 11 field teams covering all 12 prefectures and a sub-office in the Cyangugu Prefecture, where the security and human rights situation was most troubled.

35. The Human Rights Field Operation has continued to make regular visits to the communes and to monitor the human rights situation throughout the country. It has maintained close relations with the administrative, judicial and military authorities at local and national levels, and has reported its assessment of the human rights situation to the Government on a regular basis. It pays particular attention to the process of repatriation and resettlement of refugees, coordinating its work closely with that of UNHCR. It makes regular visits to places of detention to follow the judicial status of detainees and observe

conditions in relation to international human rights standards. This work is carried out in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

36. The Human Rights Field Operation has worked to assist in the rehabilitation of the justice system at the national and local levels, particularly through the close contacts of its field teams with local judicial officials. It has been able to assist in channelling material assistance made available by UNDP and other donors to meet local needs. It has organized or participated in training seminars for local officials, the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA), the Gendarmerie and Communal Police on the protection and promotion of human rights. It has also organized a large number of general human rights seminars and other promotional events throughout the country. It works closely with a number of Rwandan non-governmental organizations, and has promoted human rights awareness through radio broadcasts, drama performances and newsletters.

37. The Government of Rwanda has indicated that it continues to welcome the presence of the Human Rights Field Operation, and indeed would welcome an expansion of the numbers of its field officers, urging the international community to make the necessary funding available.

United Nations Development Programme

38. UNDP is primarily involved in the following three sectors: resettlement and reintegration of refugees; rehabilitation of the justice system and human security; and capacity-building. Activities carried out by UNDP were funded from its own resources but also through the UNDP Trust Fund for Rwanda, to which 10 donors have contributed more than US$ 36 million since the beginning of 1995. Several UNDP projects are under way in support of the Government's Accelerated Plan of Action for the Repatriation, Reinstallation and Reintegration of Refugees and Formerly Displaced Persons. Projects include an integrated package of activities for the resettlement of old and new caseload returnees, the rehabilitation of social infrastructure, and assistance for the housing of returnees in urban and semi-urban areas through the preparation and development of sites. A UNDP project, undertaken in close collaboration with WFP, is planning for the construction of 600 houses in rural settings. UNDP assistance is also being provided to reinforce government and local administration capacity to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate reinstallation activities at both the national and the local levels.

39. UNDP has been active in reinforcing State capacity and promoting national reconciliation through initiatives to build an impartial judicial system, and functioning Communal Police and Gendarmerie forces to support the maintenance of law and order. Judicial experts have been deployed to provide support to the Inspecteurs de Police judiciaire and give advisory service to the respective procureurs. UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, ICRC and several non-governmental organizations, has relieved prison overcrowding through the extension of existing detention facilities and the construction of new sites, increasing prison capacity by 24,000.

40. The UNDP state management capacity-building project was designed to strengthen rapidly the capacity of key government departments involved in economic and administrative management. The project provides direct technical support to five departments (Office of the Prime Minister, Planning, Finance, Civil Service, Interior and Communal Development) and, through its training sessions, offered to government officials at all levels, strengthens the capacity of the local and central administration as a whole. The project also provides logistical support and equipment to eight government departments. Also in the area of capacity-building, UNDP sponsored the joint Government/non-governmental organization/United Nations review of activities of non-governmental organizations in Rwanda, with a view to enhancing government and non-governmental organization relations.

41. UNDP, as the Government's main partner in organizing the round-table conferences and the follow-up process, provided technical support for the preparation of the documentation for the conference held in June 1996. The round-table conference decided that thematic and sectorial consultations should be organized over the next 12 months in the following areas: rehabilitation of the judiciary; support to the private sector; rural development and food security; and national capacity-building. UNDP will continue to provide technical support to the Government to prepare these consultations as well as to monitor the implementation of the programme presented at the round-table conference and decisions taken by it.

United Nations Environment Programme

42. In response to the Government's request, in February 1995, UNEP carried out an assessment of the impact of the conflict on the environment, particularly with regard to the displacement of population and pressure exerted on the natural resource base. UNEP also provided technical and financial support in September 1995 for the organization of a workshop on environmental training for policy makers on the Great Lakes subregion of Central Africa, attended by 60 nationals of Rwanda and 10 nationals of Burundi. The training workshop identified the following three areas of cooperation in both countries: study of biological diversity in both Rwanda and Burundi; management of wetlands and swamps common to both countries; and setting up an institutional framework, that is, a subregional committee comprising experts from each country to shape and identify programmes and provide technical support for their elaboration and implementation.

43. Through a task force on the continuum from relief to development, a number of actions have been undertaken in Rwanda since 1995 and a report on a Strategic Action Plan focusing on the Great Lakes region of Africa was prepared in late 1995 and subsequently updated early in 1996. The goal of the Plan is to bring a region-wide focus to ongoing and envisioned efforts of countries and external agencies to help achieve political, social and environmental stability and sustainable economic development in the entire Great Lakes region.

44. In August 1995, UNEP provided equipment and software to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment to enable it to overcome the infrastructural destruction caused between April and July 1994.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

45. UNHCR has continued to facilitate the return of Rwandan refugees and promote conditions conducive to large-scale repatriation. Returnees are assisted by UNHCR for their transport, food, shelter and health needs from the Rwandan border to their home communes. Fourteen transit centres throughout Rwanda are equipped to handle some 43,000 refugees a day. UNHCR also supports several ministries active in repatriation and resettlement programmes and monitors the reintegration of returnees.

46. By 20 August 1996, UNHCR had facilitated the repatriation of over 40,000 refugees from Burundi, which represented the highest level of organized return of Rwandan refugees from any country of asylum since the exodus of 1994. UNHCR also provided assistance in Rwanda for the 15,000 Rwandan refugees expelled from Burundi in July 1996.

47. Assistance to old caseload returnees who had fled Rwanda in 1959 and subsequent years has been a high priority for UNHCR since 1996. In coordination with the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR has contributed financial resources to the Government's programme to resettle old caseload returnees on officially designated sites. Through its implementing partner non-governmental organizations, UNHCR distributes shelter materials and provides logistic and technical assistance, such as artisans and engineers, for shelter construction at the government-designated resettlement sites. Shelter provision for new caseload returnees in their communes of origin has also been ensured with UNHCR funds. In 1996, shelter material sufficient to help complete some 50,000 houses is programmed for distribution by UNHCR. A project for tree-planting and environmental protection, as well as training in animal traction for agricultural production, is also being pursued in Mutara Prefecture in north-east Rwanda.

48. The UNHCR rehabilitation and reintegration activities during the reporting period included community-based rehabilitation of shelter, water, health, education, prefectural and communal offices, courts and other judicial establishments. The main focus of the UNHCR 1996 water and sanitation programme has been to meet the needs of the new resettlement sites allocated by the Government of Rwanda for old caseload returnees. Funds have also been contributed to the rehabilitation of water supply systems in the communes which receive large numbers of new caseload returnees.

49. Through its implementing partners, UNHCR provided special programmes in the first half of 1996 for extremely vulnerable individuals, such as widows and unaccompanied minors. Vocational training for adolescents has been organized, as well as income-generating projects for women. Medical care is funded by UNHCR at all major entry points and transit areas in Rwanda. UNHCR also continues to fund the rehabilitation and operation of communal health centres in areas with high return rates, and proposes to build a number of new health facilities at some of the resettlement sites.

50. In response to recommendations by the Tripartite Commissions to disseminate accurate and timely information on Rwanda, UNHCR has launched an extensive video campaign in the refugee camps in Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania and

Zaire. Documentaries on conditions in Rwanda are shown to an average of 15,000 refugees a day to inform them correctly about the national rebuilding process and the security situation in their homeland, in an effort to encourage repatriation. By 20 August 1996, nearly 600,000 people had attended mass information video showings in camps near Goma, Zaire. UNHCR has noted that these broadcasts have assisted in increasing the number of returnees to Rwanda. UNHCR also broadcasts information programmes in Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and eastern Zaire.

United Nations Children's Fund

51. Children caught in the Rwanda crisis constitute a particularly vulnerable group, traumatized by the genocide two years ago. The results of a national survey on trauma in children, completed in March 1996 by UNICEF, show that children have experienced extraordinarily high levels of exposure to traumatic events. Since October 1994, UNICEF has trained over 8,000 Rwandans who work with children in basic trauma identification and alleviation methods. They have been able to reach 200,000 children. The UNICEF-supported child soldier demobilization project in Rwanda aims to reintegrate approximately 5,000 former child soldiers into civil society. Programmes for the reunification of unaccompanied children continue. Out of the estimated 45,000 unaccompanied children in Rwanda in 1994, 16,000 have so far been reunited with family members. UNICEF estimates that another 70,000 children live with impoverished foster families. Some 2,000 children living in child-headed households have been identified. UNICEF is assessing the problem with the aim of devising clear strategies to assist this vulnerable category of children.

52. A survey on vaccination coverage undertaken by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in March 1996 shows that pre-war vaccination levels in the number of children under 5 immunized against the six major vaccine-preventable diseases (polio, measles, tuberculosis, whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria) have nearly been attained. This is a major achievement for a country that has only recently come out of war. Another survey conducted by the Ministry of Health, with UNICEF assistance, found that 90 per cent of health centres were operational and providing basic health care. UNICEF and the Rwandan National AIDS Control Programme have started working towards a concrete HIV/AIDS awareness programme for schools in 1996.

53. In 1996, UNICEF has been working on the development of an "Education for Peace" programme for primary schools. The programme is in its pilot phase and, if successful, will be expanded to all levels of the formal educational system as well as non-formal education. As part of its Water and Environmental Sanitation programme, UNICEF helped the Government of Rwanda formulate national policy guidelines for the sector. The guidelines will establish a community-based programme for the sector, whereby communities would be responsible for implementing and managing their own water and sanitation schemes.

United Nations Volunteers

54. At the end of August 1996, there were a total of 100 United Nations Volunteers working in Rwanda. Of this total, 48 were assigned to the United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda. The remaining Volunteers are working with the Government and United Nations agencies in the areas of repatriation and resettlement of refugees, community development, justice and health.

World Food Programme

55. Over two thirds of WFP assistance to Rwanda during the first half of 1996 (24,080 tons) have been channelled through food-for-work and income-generating activities. This is believed to be the most appropriate way of addressing the needs of the majority of the Rwandan population who continue to depend on external food aid at a time when the initial emergency is over and reconstruction is the priority. Apart from fulfilling the basic mandate of WFP in providing food to nearly 941,000 needy people, these food-for-work projects had a noticeable impact on the rehabilitation of different sectors of Rwandan society, by supporting over 9 million person-days of community-based work. Women, who have been participating in half of all such schemes, represent a third of the overall labour force engaged in community-based activities.

56. WFP also continues to care for all those who are still vulnerable to food shortages but are unable to participate in rehabilitation activities, generally through assistance to returnee transit centres and refugee camps (69,000 beneficiaries in 1996), targeted distributions to the population at risk (101,000 beneficiaries), seeds protection programme (36,000 beneficiaries), and regular institutional feeding of 22,000 unaccompanied minors, malnourished women and children and hospital patients.

57. The pre-war development project, Programme alimentaire nutritionnel (PAN), has been further revitalized, and, as a joint WFP, UNDP, UNICEF, World Bank and Ministry of Health venture, continues to support 62 nutritional institutions caring for 15,800 most vulnerable Rwandans.

58. WFP plans to maintain the existing level of assistance throughout 1996, but actual distributions will depend on the prevailing food security situation in the country, the level of repatriation, and future arrivals of asylum seekers, as well the response of the donors to needs in Rwanda.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

59. FAO has established a programme of technical cooperation to supervise and give technical support to the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. Since June 1994, FAO has conducted, jointly with WFP, several assessments of the crop and food supply situation in Rwanda, as well as of emergency and rehabilitation needs. The FAO emergency programme was implemented quickly and on schedule. Agricultural input distributions corresponded to forecasts and a seed multiplication programme, funded by the World Bank, has accomplished its

objectives at very low cost, with the effective cooperation of non-governmental organizations.

60. FAO activities have been concentrated in the areas of distribution of agricultural inputs, collection of agricultural data, monitoring of the food security situation, identification of vulnerable groups in the rural areas, and improving animal health. The distribution of agricultural inputs has been targeted at vulnerable groups. FAO has been monitoring agricultural prices at the 30 markets in the country, and the data show that agricultural prices are normalizing. A study undertaken in May 1996 identified 12 per cent of the rural population as vulnerable, compared with 15 per cent in September 1995. Animal vaccination programmes continued in the eastern region.

61. In its activities undertaken in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO is moving from an emergency stage to more long-term rural development programmes, such as the formulation of a long-term agricultural and rural development strategy and the creation of a national food security system.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

62. During the first half of 1996, UNESCO, through its Programme for Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction, and in collaboration with the Rwandan Government, provided technical and logistical support to seminars dealing with education, peace, culture and health education, including issues related to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. In the field of education capacity-building, UNESCO distributed over 5,000 numeracy textbooks and collected and updated school statistics necessary for the reconstruction of the school system. UNESCO printed 6,000 textbooks for formal and non-formal education and is producing post-literacy material targeted at illiterate youth, especially the unemployed and street children. Activities for the education of imprisoned children were also undertaken, in conjunction with UNICEF. A survey of school needs has been conducted in resettlement areas in anticipation of an influx of returnees. In June 1996, an agreement was signed with the Government for the establishment of a UNESCO Office in Rwanda to coordinate UNESCO programmes.

63. The UNESCO media project has provided technical assistance to the National University of Rwanda in degree courses for journalists and has established a Press Club in Kigali to facilitate contacts between journalists and enhance their professionalism. Several training seminars for journalists have also been organized.

World Health Organization

64. The activities of WHO have focused on assisting the Ministry of Health in institution-building and human resources development. WHO has assisted the Ministry of Health in implementing a health policy based on support to the district health system. The epidemiological surveillance system established in 1995 was further strengthened and consolidated, and guidelines for managing

epidemics were developed. AIDS/sexually transmitted diseases control and prevention were reinforced. In the field of environmental health, WHO has provided assistance and technical equipment to control water pollution.

65. In order to alleviate the shortage of health personnel and to upgrade skills, WHO has assisted in the training of 500 health auxiliaries, 18 physicians and medical support staff in blood transfusion centres and blood banks and in the Kigali Central Hospital pharmacy. Drugs, vaccines and equipment were supplied to the pharmacy.

International Monetary Fund

66. Since July 1994, the Fund's assistance to Rwanda has consisted of policy advice, technical assistance in strengthening the capacity for macroeconomic management, and financial support in the context of the compensatory and contingency financing facility. As a result of these efforts, the compilation of economic statistics by the National Bank of Rwanda and the Ministry of Finance and Planning has been strengthened and coherent macroeconomic policies were implemented in 1995 and 1996, monitored by IMF. Further progress on these fronts and in promoting a stable social order will provide a basis for the negotiation of a programme that could be supported under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF).

World Bank

67. The World Bank activities in Rwanda are aimed at establishing and consolidating the framework for economic and social recovery and facilitating rehabilitation and reconstruction. The current World Bank portfolio in Rwanda comprises 11 ongoing projects covering such key areas as education, health and population, sanitation, capacity-building, vulnerable groups, productive infrastructure, rural development and agriculture, and private sector development.

68. About US$ 58 million was disbursed during the period June 1995-June 1996, including US$ 43.67 million through the Emergency Recovery Credit. About US$ 155 million is available for disbursement under the ongoing projects through June 1997. In the social sector, activities have been initiated to rehabilitate and reconstruct schools, health centres and water supply systems through the education and health projects. The World Bank has been involved in the financing of income-generating activities initiated by women, and in distribution of about 2.3 tons of food for nutrition centres and centres for unaccompanied children. In regard to the productive infrastructure, the reconstruction works of the Gitarama-Kibuye road, financed by the World Bank and Swiss bilateral aid, are ready to resume and are expected to be completed by June 1997. Construction and rehabilitation of about 140 water supply systems for an amount of US$ 2 million have been launched in Gitarama Prefecture and are expected to end by December 1996. In March 1996, activities undertaken by United Nations agencies through a World Bank special emergency assistance grant of US$ 20 million were completed and the grant fully disbursed.

69. Further to the commitments taken at the round-table conference in June 1996, a joint IMF/World Bank mission will hold discussions with the Government on the macroeconomic framework and development of a policy framework paper as a preliminary step to prepare financial budget support for 1997.

C. Assistance by intergovernmental organizations and others

International Organization for Migration

70. IOM has been providing transport assistance to returnees, displaced persons, Rwandan nationals and third-country nationals since 1994. Together with UNHCR and in close coordination with the Government of Rwanda, IOM has provided transport assistance to the communities of origin for over 115,000 repatriating Rwandan refugees. In coordination with UNHCR, it has also provided transport assistance to Zairian refugees, fleeing ethnic violence in North Kivu, upon their arrival in Rwanda.

71. IOM began its implementation of the programme for the return and reintegration of qualified Rwandan nationals in January 1996. This capacity-building programme will assist in the return of 330 highly qualified Rwandans who will be placed in key positions in priority sectors. Some 125 applications from interested candidates in 16 countries have been received. Of these, 88 have been matched with vacancies in both the public and the private sectors. The remaining applications are currently under consideration by potential employers. The first returnees include doctors, magistrates, economists and university professors.

72. In January 1996, the World Bank was requested by the Government of Rwanda to take a lead role in the preparation of the demobilization process. IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, has designed a general framework on demobilization, the elements of which have been incorporated in the programme for the first-phase demobilization of a vulnerable group of 10,000 child and disabled soldiers and others. IOM took part in the World Bank mission for Rwanda sent in June 1996 to assist the Government in the technical details which will define the terms of reference for preparation studies for second-phase demobilization.

73. IOM is also providing transport assistance to the Ministry of Justice for a limited period of time to transfer detainees to less crowded central prisons or new places of detention. These activities are carried out in full coordination with the United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda and ICRC.

International Committee of the Red Cross

74. Since the establishment of a permanent delegation in Rwanda in 1990, ICRC has undertaken its traditional activities to protect and assist victims of the war and the genocide. ICRC has provided food and non-food items to vulnerable groups such as orphans, schoolchildren and displaced persons. With 130 international and more than 1,000 national staff, the ICRC operation in Rwanda remains among the biggest ICRC operations worldwide.

75. Together with the Red Cross Societies of Australia, France, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the ICRC has continued to rehabilitate damaged rural water supply systems and medical facilities in the country. One million people benefit from these activities.

76. ICRC has continued to visit and register all detainees arrested in relation to the conflict and the genocide held in more than 250 detention places. In view of the enormous increase in the number of detainees since July 1995 and with the situation in the detention places remaining extremely precarious, it was necessary to continue to assist the prisons with basic food and non-food items, medicines and water. Infrastructure work for new detention sites, identified during 1995, continued in spite of considerable efforts undertaken by the Rwandan authorities. ICRC still has to provide up to 50 per cent of the food and medical needs of the prisons.

77. Over 2 million Red Cross messages, to restore and maintain contacts between separated family members, have been distributed to civilians and detainees through the ICRC network. Tracing programmes carried out in collaboration with UNHCR, UNICEF and non-governmental organizations resulted in over 16,000 children being reunited with their families between July 1995 and July 1996, making a total of 22,000 reunited children since July 1994. However, tens of thousands of children are still in search of their parents.

D. Assistance by non-governmental organizations

78. There are approximately 90 international non-governmental organizations working in Rwanda. Their operations are now moving into a more developmental phase with a focus on increased cooperation and collaboration with government structures. There is an elected committee of international non-governmental organizations to foster improved coordination with all partners, including the Government, United Nations agencies, donors and local non-governmental organizations. A joint Government/non-governmental organization/United Nations study of the activities of such organizations provided a framework of recommendations on how to improve the performance of all partners working in Rwanda. Non-governmental organizations have also been active in dialogue with the Government and donors through such activities as participation in the round-table conference and assisting ministries in the formulation of sectoral policies. The crucial transition to development assistance and long-term planning has, however, been hampered by the continuing short-term basis of the funding provided by some donors.

79. Non-governmental organizations have been active in all sectors, working with communities towards reconstruction, including shelter, and rehabilitation of health, water and education. The focus continues to be on assisting vulnerable groups and addressing specific needs such as psycho-trauma work, input into the justice system reforms and capacity-building. Shifting towards a developmental phase has involved projects that assist people towards sustainable livelihood, such as income generation and agroforestry. Non-governmental organizations continue to be involved, with partners, in preparations for the

return of refugees to Rwanda. They are also assisting those refugees from Zaire and Burundi currently seeking asylum in Rwanda.

IV. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

80. The situation in Rwanda continues to improve, progressing gradually from an emergency relief phase to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. However, the continued instability in the region and the presence of some 1.6 million Rwandan refugees still outside the country (notwithstanding the repatriation of almost all the refugees in Burundi), continues to cause uncertainty and casts a shadow on efforts at rehabilitation and long-term sustainable development. With a per capita annual GDP of US$ 80, Rwanda is one of the poorest countries in the world. The task of rebuilding a country shattered by genocide is indeed a difficult challenge.

81. At the round-table conference for Rwanda held at Geneva in June 1996, the Government of Rwanda presented its development framework for 1996-1998 which aims at propelling Rwanda towards sustainable development. It focuses on rehabilitation of the socio-economic infrastructure and reactivation of agricultural and industrial production. The development framework is centred on the following set of objectives: strengthening national security, rehabilitating the judicial system, restoring property rights, repatriating refugees, consolidating the democratic process, capacity-building, and national reconciliation. There is a need for sustained support from the international community for the Government of Rwanda to deal with immediate humanitarian concerns and to undertake sustainable development programmes in the longer term.

82. The insecurity affecting the western prefectures of Rwanda bordering Zaire and Burundi is of major concern. In this respect, the presence of refugee camps close to the border has been a major destabilization factor, providing a base for infiltrators and forces opposed to the Government. Former Rwandese Government forces and armed militia have continued their sabotage campaign. In recent months, attacks on local officials and genocide survivors have increased markedly. In response, the Rwandese Patriotic Army (RPA) has carried out military search operations to combat these attacks. These have resulted in some civilian casualties. In this context, the Government of Rwanda needs to reconfirm its commitment towards human rights and ensure the protection of civilian population affected by the conflict.

83. The alarming situation in Burundi and tensions in the neighbouring countries of Rwanda have made the situation throughout the Great Lakes region highly volatile. Effective monitoring of humanitarian needs and the creation of a standby emergency response capability needs to be undertaken to prepare for any new crisis which may erupt.

84. The 1994 genocide and ensuing destruction devastated the legal system and presents a challenging array of problems. The tasks facing the Government of Rwanda are to end impunity; compensate victims of the genocide; ensure fair trials; provide humane conditions for detainees; and train and equip virtually an entire corps of judges, prosecutors, criminal investigators and prison guards and administrators. Establishing an independent, effective justice system in

Rwanda is central to rebuilding the country and restoring confidence and creating conditions amenable to the repatriation of refugees. Legislation passed in August 1996 by the National Assembly enabling the organization of genocide prosecutions is an important step forward for the justice system in Rwanda.

85. For most of the year, voluntary repatriation from the refugee camps in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire virtually ceased. It is to be hoped that the large-scale repatriation of nearly all the Rwandan refugees in Burundi in August 1996, and their successful reintegration into their home communes, will send a positive message to refugees in those countries. Repatriation is essential, not only for Rwanda but also for the asylum countries that are impatient to see the refugees leave their territory. In August 1996, the Prime Ministers of Rwanda and Zaire agreed that all refugee camps in Zaire should be closed before the presidential elections in Zaire, scheduled for October 1997. At the Geneva round-table conference in June 1996, participants supported the speedy repatriation of Rwandan refugees and also recognized the need to give urgent and serious consideration to new proposals to facilitate their repatriation. The presence of some 1.6 million refugees outside the country remains the critical issue and the revitalization of the repatriation process is a vital element for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Rwanda.

86. In order to carry out those tasks, the Government of Rwanda requires enhanced assistance in capacity-building from the international community. Important steps have already been taken to reorganize the public administration infrastructure and the legal system, and now this needs to be put into action. Projects covering the major areas of rehabilitation have been designed by the international community in conjunction with the Government, but the implementation process needs to be strengthened and further developed to ensure continued progress towards development.

Annex

ASSISTANCE BY MEMBER STATES AND OTHER DONORS

Cyprus

Cyprus has contributed US$ 1,000 to the United Nations humanitarian assistance programme for the countries of the Great Lakes region and US$ 1,000 to the UNHCR 1996 appeal budget for the Rwanda-Burundi Emergency Operation.

Denmark

Denmark contributed DKr 164,377,060 in 1995/96, as follows.

Organization	Amount (in Danish Kroner)
1995	
UNHCR	28 000 000
IOM	500 000
UNICEF	9 000 000
WFP	15 000 000
Department of Humanitarian Affairs	1 500 000
International Tribunal for Rwanda	250 000
Danish Red Cross	14 000 000
Adventist Development Relief Agency	1 859 630
Save the Children	3 000 000
Danchurchaid	12 045 000
Total	94 705 706
1996	
UNHCR	37 000 000
UNHCHR	571 350
UNICEF	7 000 000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	1 000 000
Danchurchaid	13 000 000
Danish Red Cross	11 000 000
Total	69 571 350

In addition, in 1995 Denmark contributed DKr 5,300,000 to support rehabilitation and reconstruction in Rwanda.

Finland

Finland's humanitarian assistance to Rwanda (for 1995 and 1996 as of June 1996) amounted to a total of FmK 18,885,000. The amount was disbursed as shown below.

Organization	Amount (in markkaa)
1995	
WFP	4 000 000
UNHCR	3 500 000
Finnish Free Foreign Mission	215 000
Finnish Red Cross/ICRC	850 000
Finnish Red Cross/IFRC	1 000 000
UNICEF	1 120 000
UNDP	1 000 000
Total	11 685 000
1996	
UNHCR	1 250 000
WFP	1 250 000
FinnChurchAid	1 000 000
Finnish Free Foreign Mission	350 000
Finnish Red Cross/ICRC	2 100 000
Finnish Red Cross/ICRC	800 000
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	450 000
Total	7 200 000

Germany

In 1995/96, the amount of humanitarian assistance provided by Germany totalled DM 68,190,851.

	Amount (in deutsche mark)
1995	
Humanitarian aid	7 324 010
Food aid	28 488 972
Other activities (water supply, education, reconstruction, military observers, police force)	115 996 200
Total	51 809 182
1996	
Humanitarian aid	2 538 439
Food aid	13 513 230
Other activities (human rights, Department of Peacekeeping Operations Lessons Learned)	330 000
Total	16 381 66

Norway

Norway contributed NKr 47,788,666 in 1995/96, as follows.

Organization	Amount (in Norwegian kroner)
1995	
Miscellaneous Visit by the Minister of Reconstruction	14 263
CARE Norway	1 817 300
CARITAS Norway	945 000
The Carter Centre	323 176
Norwegian Refugee Council	395 587
Norwegian Red Cross	9 360 000
Save the Children Norway	1 000 000

Organization	Amount (in Norwegian kroner)
United Nations Centre for Human Rights	2 950 000
UNHCR	781 500
Total	37 586 826
1996	
UNICEF	9 750 000
United Nations International Tribunal for Rwanda	451 840
Total	10 201 840

Spain

Spain provided over US$ 4,035 million in humanitarian assistance to Rwanda in 1995 and US$ 1.8 million in 1996. This was disbursed as shown below.

A grant in an amount of $42,276 was provided to the Vetermón non-governmental organization for implementation, in cooperation with UNICEF, of a supplementary nutrition programme for unaccompanied children in Rwandan refugee camps in Goma.

A contribution to UNHCR in an amount of $2,500,000 in respect of cooperation in the programme for the return of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Funding in an amount of $150,000 for the extension of eight human rights observer-monitors under the United Nations Volunteers programme.

Contribution in an amount of $150,000 to the International Tribunal for Rwanda.

Contribution in an amount of $200,000 to the UNDP trust fund for Rwanda for overhaul of the judicial system in Rwanda.

Contribution in an amount of $65,574 to the appeal by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Transport of humanitarian cargo and personnel engaged in humanitarian assistance activities through Spanish NGOs in an amount of 30 million pesetas.

Contribution in an amount of $2,984,645 by the Spanish Committee for UNICEF to the UNICEF programme in the region.

Contribution in an amount of $25,128 (306 million pesetas) by the España con ACNUR (Spain with UNHCR) NGO to UNHCR in respect of cooperation in the programme for the return to Rwanda of refugees in neighbouring countries.

1996

Contribution in an amount of $1,200,000 to the World Food Programme (WFP) for food assistance in the Great Lakes region (1996 appeal).

Funding in an amount of $200,000 for the extension of eight human rights observer-monitors under the United Nations Volunteers programme who began their human rights monitoring and observation functions in Rwanda in 1994.

Other assistance:

Contribution in an amount of $404,988 by the España con ACNUR (Spain with UNHCR) NGO to UNHCR in respect of cooperation in the programme for the return to Rwanda of refugees in neighbouring countries.

Contribution in an amount of $3,853 by the Spanish Committee for UNICEF to the UNICEF programme in the region.

Switzerland

Switzerland's contribution to alleviate the crisis in Rwanda between April 1994 and June 1996 was as shown below.

Sector	Contribution
Restoration of peace	667 000
Forestry sector	725 000
Banking sector	1 300 000
Justice and human rights sector	5 117 000
Financial sector	1 200 000
Humanitarian assistance programme for Rwanda	11 010 000
Humanitarian assistance, regional programme	30 587 000
Media and information	2 012 000
Total	52 618 000

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/354
18 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-first session
Item 99 (d) of the provisional agenda*

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Action taken at the international, regional and national levels to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 4	3
II.	IMPLEMENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL	5 - 34	4
	A. Initial review of the Programme of Action by the Commission on Sustainable Development	5	4
	B. Implementation by organs and bodies of the United Nations system	6 - 34	4
III.	IMPLEMENTATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL	35 - 46	12
	A. The African region	36 - 38	12

* A/51/150.

96-24237 (E) 071096 081096

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
	B. The Caribbean region	39 - 42	12
	C. The Asia and Pacific region	43 - 46	13
IV.	PROGRESS IN NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION	47 - 62	14
	A. The African region	48 - 51	14
	B. The Caribbean region	52 - 55	15
	C. The Asia and Pacific region	56 - 61	16
	D. The Mediterranean	62	18
V.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	63 - 67	18
	A. Conclusions	63 - 65	18
	B. Recommendations for future action	66 - 67	19

Annexes

I.	List of small island developing States or areas	20
II.	List of organizations and Governments that responded to the request for inputs to the present report	21

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/116, in which, inter alia, it called on Governments, as well as organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and other relevant organizations, to pursue effective follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. 1/ The Assembly also invited the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to continue to implement all the provisions of the technical assistance programme (SIDSTAP) and the information network for small island developing States (SIDSNET); requested the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in collaboration with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, to finalize plans for convening a high-level panel on external trade of island developing countries; and requested the Secretary-General to make provision for the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-first session on action taken to implement the resolution; the present report has been prepared in response to that request.

2. The text of the present report will be posted on the Department's web site at http://www.un.org/DPCSD. Interested United Nations and non-United Nations organizations are invited to contribute information, on a continuous basis, on their initiatives to implement the Programme of Action.

Methodology and structure

3. In the preparation of the present report, the deliberations and decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development during its initial review of the Programme of Action at its fourth session in 1996 were of considerable relevance. In addition, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including relevant regional commissions, were approached for submission of updated accounts of activities undertaken in the context of the Programme of Action. A number of those organizations responded, providing brief reports of activities initiated since June 1995; their submissions served as the sole source of information on their activities for that period. The present report does not repeat information on activities of the United Nations system presented in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/50/422 and Add.1).

4. Unlike previous reports to the General Assembly on action taken to implement the Programme of Action, the present report includes information on activities undertaken at the regional level under the Programme of Action by non-United Nations intergovernmental regional bodies and by the Governments of a number of small island developing States at the national level.

II. IMPLEMENTATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

A. Initial review of the Programme of Action by the Commission on Sustainable Development

5. At its fourth session, in 1996, the Commission on Sustainable Development undertook an initial review of the Programme of Action, in keeping with its decision at its third session held in 1995. The review focused on the following thematic areas: coastal area management; tourism resources; air transport; telecommunication development; natural and environmental disasters; energy resources; maritime transport; and trade-related issues of small island developing States. The outcome of the review is contained in decision 4/16 of the Commission. 2/

B. Implementation by organs and bodies of the United Nations system

6. Together with the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) task managers and UNCTAD, the Department provided substantive support to the Commission at its fourth session to facilitate its review of the implementation of the Programme of Action. In response to General Assembly resolution 50/116, the Department has also included in its work programme for the year 1996/97 the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States and the exploration of modalities for mobilizing resources to implement the Programme of Action.

7. An account of the activities undertaken by other organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the respective programme areas since mid-1995 is set out below.

1. Climate change and sea level rise

8. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has reported the commencement of projects on the impacts of climate change in Antigua and Barbuda, and on the strengthening of the tide gauge network for the Global Oceanic Observation System (GLOSS) among Caribbean small island developing States to provide information on sea level rise. It has completed a numerical model to assess the socio-economic impacts of climate change and sea level rise in small island developing States. The organization has continued its assistance to small island developing States in dealing with the phenomenon through studies on the impacts of climate change. The period under review also marked the completion by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in collaboration with UNEP, of an overview of the impact of climate change on coastal populations and human settlements. Habitat is currently planning a training programme on capacity-building for settlements planning and sea level rise in small island developing States.

2. Natural and environmental disasters

9. Several new actions have been reported under this priority area in the past year. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), provided inputs to the report of the Secretary-General considered by the Commission at its fourth session, and prepared the addendum to that report on natural and environmental disasters in small island developing States. In the area of disaster relief, the Department responded to two disasters in Caribbean small island developing States caused by hurricane Luis and a volcanic activity. The Department was successful in mobilizing resources in cash and kind from the international community in addressing the most urgent needs. IDNDR activities in the Pacific region included convening the Fourth IDNDR Pacific Regional Disaster Reduction meeting; finalization and printing of disaster management plans for four countries; preparation of draft guidelines for disaster mitigation, public awareness, and education and information management; continuation of regional training courses; preparation of country work programmes; and initiation of pilot projects in applied disaster reduction in Fiji and the Cook Islands.

10. UNEP has adapted its Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) process for application to port areas. Habitat has extended by three years its support programme to the Caribbean on settlements planning and related environmental management; has completed a proposal for a disaster rehabilitation project for a number of Caribbean small island developing States, in collaboration with UNDP; and is planning the establishment of a Caribbean construction training programme. A number of interventions were made by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) following natural disasters in small island developing States, which were targeted at Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Dominica, following hurricane destruction, and at Papua New Guinea, following floods, landslides and volcanic eruption.

11. Under the Tropical Cyclone Programme of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the following events have been organized that either concentrate only on small island developing States or include them: a workshop on tropical cyclone forecasting and warning for the South-West Indian Ocean region; a joint seminar on meteorological and hydrological risk assessment for Asia; a hurricane conference for the Caribbean; and a training course on tropical meteorology and tropical cyclone forecasting. In addition, the Nadi Tropical Cyclone Warning Centre in Fiji has been designated a WMO regional specialized meteorological centre since June 1995. A satellite-based system in the Caribbean came into operation in April 1996, replacing the former terrestrial communications links. WMO has also provided assistance, through its public weather services programme, in the form of: (a) the publication of a guide on public weather services practices; (b) an expert meeting on public weather services and hurricane disaster preparedness, held in Trinidad and Tobago in December 1995; and (c) a training workshop on effective communication techniques and media relations for the Caribbean and the Americas, held in Costa Rica in May 1996. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has set up the International Tsunami Warning System, which provides for the dissemination of

tsunami watches, warnings and advisory bulletins to member States throughout the Pacific.

3. Management of wastes

12. Under this programme area, Habitat is currently implementing projects covering settlements and infrastructure improvements, sanitation, waste-water treatment and solid waste management in Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands in the Pacific, and Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean. A workshop on environmental management, focusing on solid waste management and water quality conservation, is planned by UNEP for 1996 for Asia and Pacific small island developing States. The World Bank recently published a paper entitled "Marine outfall", in which the experience of a number of small island developing States was used as examples of the need to improve waste-water treatment and disposal.

4. Coastal and marine resources

13. UNEP has reported the following activities: completion of a coastal profile for Grand Comoros; convening of an International Coral Reef Initiative workshop in Seychelles; launching of integrated coastal area management pilot projects in the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with another planned for the Comoros; preparation of a protocol for land-based sources of marine pollution for the Caribbean; and the strengthening of International Environmental Information System (INFOTERRA) national focal points. The World Bank provided tangible support for a series of international coral reef management workshops convened in a number of small island developing States. The Bank is committed to providing support for the participation of small island developing States from the Indian Ocean and East African region in the forthcoming High-Level Intergovernmental Conference on Follow-up to the Arusha Resolution in Support of Integrated Coastal Zone Management, scheduled to be held in Seychelles in October 1996.

14. The Twenty-Eighth General Conference of UNESCO, held in October and November 1995, adopted as part of its medium-term strategy the six-year multi-disciplinary project entitled "Environment and development in coastal regions and small islands" (CSI). A number of pilot projects are being launched, and some existing projects, particularly in the Caribbean, are being reoriented to address a variety of coastal problems under the rubric of CSI. A draft programme document is being finalized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for the establishment of a fisheries technical assistance programme for small island developing States focusing on institutional strengthening and capacity-building, conservation and management of exclusive economic zone (EEZ) fisheries and improved post-harvest management and marketing.

5. Freshwater resources

15. Among the activities planned in this area are the publication in 1996 by UNEP of Sourcebook on Alternative Technologies for Augmenting Freshwater Resources in Small Island Developing States; various UNICEF projects in Haiti, Sao Tome and Principe, and Cape Verde for increasing access to drinking water and sanitation facilities; an International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) colloquium on women's relationship to water supply and usage in the Dominican Republic; and a regional training seminar in water resources management for island countries of the Caribbean by the World Bank. INSTRAW and UNICEF jointly convened a workshop on the theme "Women, water and environmental sanitation" during the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995).

16. Other activities reported in this area include the preparation of a Latin America and Caribbean water resources assessment and management action plan by a WMO/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) conference on water resources assessment and management strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean (May 1996); the proposed implementation of a Caribbean hydrological observation system for countries of the Caribbean Basin by WMO and the World Bank; and the development by UNESCO of a CSI pilot project in Kiribati, Tonga and Solomon Islands, addressing freshwater resource management as an integral part of sustainable development.

6. Land resources

17. In this area, Habitat has expanded its programme on human settlements and related environmental management issues in the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and UNDP. In addition, it is collaborating with the Caribbean Development Bank and UNEP in formulating integrated settlements and coastal zone management plans in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

7. Energy resources

18. Under this programme area, UNEP has reported that it is providing assistance and information to small island developing States on energy policies and technologies through its Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment.

8. Tourism resources

19. UNEP has completed information on environmental codes of conduct for tourism, for dissemination to tourism boards, travel agents and tour operators, and inclusion in environmental action packs for hotels. UNEP/United States Agency for International Development (USAID) pilot case studies on the impacts of tourism activities on coastal and marine resources will be conducted in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In collaboration with the World Tourism Organization and a European non-governmental organization, UNEP is also developing award schemes to

recognize environmentally sound management of coastal tourist areas and to promote eco-labelling. Other activities being undertaken by the organization in cooperation with the tourism industry associations include the preparation of a booklet on environmentally sound technologies for hotels, the development of a curriculum for use in hotel and tourism professional schools, and the preparation of a case study booklet on successful examples in sustainable tourism.

20. With a view to increasing the representation of Caribbean small island developing States in UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites, a World Heritage promotion seminar was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in March 1996. A regional seminar on cultural tourism was held in Papua New Guinea in December 1995, within the framework of UNESCO's proposed Vaka Moana ocean world programme in the Pacific; the seminar brought together experts from Pacific island States to discuss issues related to the impact of tourism on culture and the environment.

9. Biodiversity resources

21. In January 1996, UNESCO launched an interregional project entitled "Integrated biodiversity strategies for island and coastal areas" with the aim of assisting in the formulation of integrated biodiversity strategies for interregional cooperation between coastal States and islands, and to promote implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The World Bank has prepared a draft operational programme for marine protected areas for potential funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under its biodiversity focal area. The draft programme, if approved for funding, will benefit many small island developing States through the provision of critical support for the establishment and management of such areas. UNEP has produced technical documents on the features of biodiversity in small island developing States using geographical information systems (GIS) databases, and is currently assisting the Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Seychelles, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in developing national biodiversity action plans using GEF resources.

10. National institutions and administrative capacity

22. UNEP has provided assistance to Kiribati for the finalization of a framework for environmental law, and will conduct later in 1996 a needs assessment for Vanuatu. It is currently studying requests for assistance in drafting environmental legislation for the Cook Islands and Tuvalu. As part of its technical cooperation programme, Habitat is supporting several small island developing States in the South Pacific and the Caribbean in building institutional capacity for formulating land-use and settlements development plans, development control and the application of management information systems. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs/UNDP Disaster Management Training Programme is focusing principally on national capacity-building for disaster reduction and management. During the reporting period, national training exercises were conducted in Papua New Guinea, Cuba and member States of the Indian Ocean Commission. Follow-up activities have been initiated at the

national and regional levels after completion of earlier workshops, and include the development of a country action plan for Papua New Guinea. A second phase of national activities has also been initiated for States of the Eastern Caribbean under this programme.

23. UNDP has continued its work in finalizing SIDSTAP, particularly in the assessment of priority gaps in technical cooperation under the Programme of Action in the African and Caribbean regions. For the former, a draft report on the assessment-cum-formulation exercises has been prepared and will be distributed shortly. One objective of the exercise is to seek concurrence on priority needs and subsequently to provide assistance for resource mobilization at the national, regional and international levels.

24. The first volume of the Directory of Institutions and Experts in Small Island Developing States, which has been prepared by UNDP, has been published, with work on the second volume nearing completion. Updating of the SIDSNET feasibility study has been completed and consultations have been conducted with the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) group in New York on its further development. The United Nations University (UNU) has reported the launching, in June 1995, of its Internet-based Small Islands Network (SIN), designed to strengthen and link research, training and dissemination activities among small island developing States. UNU is considering plans for undertaking a joint project with the UNDP Sustainable Development Network to promote access to information in remote islands in the South Pacific. In March and October 1995, UNU organized two international symposia in Tokyo, on the themes "Small islands and sustainable development" and "Multimedia and human resource development".

25. Several training programmes and other projects aimed at enhancing national capacity in international trade have been conducted by the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/World Trade Organization), including improvement of import management for Pacific Island countries, which became operational in January 1996; a pre-programming mission to Haiti in September 1995 to identify export/import technical cooperation needs; a trade programme support mission to Jamaica in September 1995; and a series of dissemination seminars and workshops held in the Caribbean between January and July 1996, on the theme "Business guide to the Uruguay Round". Two similar business guide seminars were also held in the Pacific in June 1996. Under the WMO Education and Training Programme, six fellowships were provided for the training of small island developing States participants during the latter part of 1995. INSTRAW, in collaboration with other institutions, prepared a training package on the theme "Women, environmental management and sustainable development".

11. Regional institutions and technical cooperation

26. The UNDP Pacific subregional office is in the process of preparing a Pacific subregional programme. A dialogue on its implementation has begun between its Special Unit for Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries and the three major intergovernmental bodies of the subregion, namely, the South Pacific Forum (SPF), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Pacific Operations Centre.

27. UNEP is serving as a regional contact point for the International Coral Relief Initiative in the Caribbean. In the African region, the Committee on Island Ecosystems has been established by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, with the involvement of UNEP.

28. FAO has established subregional offices for the Pacific (Samoa) and the Caribbean (Barbados) aimed at intensifying partnerships with regional institutions. At a meeting on technical consultations held in Apia, Samoa in May 1996, FAO also developed the Subregional Programme for Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for the Pacific. Similar technical consultations for the Caribbean are scheduled for 1997.

29. In late 1995, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) launched a three-year project to support training by the South Pacific Forum secretariat for the enforcement of drug laws. In the Caribbean, a plan of action was adopted by a high-level meeting held in May 1996, focusing on drug controls, demand reduction, legislation, law enforcement and maritime cooperation. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) field office in Jamaica convened a subregional meeting of government and non-governmental organization partners in February/March 1996 to review post-International Conference on Population and Development initiatives and needs and to develop a new subregional programme.

12. Transport and communication

30. As task manager for maritime transport, UNCTAD prepared a report entitled "Maritime transport in small island developing States" which was considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, in 1996. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) prepared a report on air transport. In addition, ICAO evaluated a study on Pacific airports for the Asian Development Bank, and formulated a flight safety cooperation project for South Pacific States at a meeting held in Vanuatu in November 1995. An ICAO planning mission to Cape Verde in November/December 1995 led to the development of a project document and various project guidelines. In Haiti, ICAO is implementing a project for developing a civil aviation legal code and for familiarizing air traffic controllers with high-density traffic procedures.

31. In addition to its contribution to the Commission's review of the Programme of Action in 1996, the International Telecommunication Union initiated a number of projects in small island developing States, including the establishment of a regional satellite news network in the Caribbean, funding of a workshop in Grenada in 1996 and provision of training courses and fellowships for the region. In the Pacific, the second stage of a project on costing tariffing models in Papua New Guinea, as well as a radio and television master plan for Fiji, were completed in 1996. A study on the expansion of telecommunication services to outer islands was completed for Kiribati, and a study on rural telecommunication development is under way for Solomon Islands. In Africa, the organization provided assistance on tariff matters to Cape Verde. UNESCO provided equipment to national broadcasting systems for small island developing States in the Caribbean, trained news and information personnel, and coordinated community media projects.

13. Science and technology

32. UNEP is currently operating a network of cleaner production centres for exchange of information and experience at the international and national levels; one such centre has been established in Malta. Through its INFOTERRA focal point networks in Fiji, Samoa, Maldives and the Caribbean small island developing States, UNEP is supporting the exchange of environmental information services among those countries. Habitat is making available to small island developing States, as part of its operational activities, technical instruments for land-use and settlements planning, and GIS and visual information systems for settlements planning.

14. Human resource development

33. In Maldives, UNICEF provided support for on-site teacher training and the development of an accreditation system for in-service training. The organization assisted Cape Verde in conducting a survey aimed at improving educational quality and a study to determine the need for school meals and supplies. It also assisted in mounting a special education pilot project for handicapped children. UNICEF and UNESCO collaborated to support the implementation of an education reform strategy for OECS countries in the Caribbean. UNICEF also presented recommendations on education reform to the Government of Barbados, and supported the development and validation of didactic guides for elementary schools in Dominica.

15. Vulnerability index

34. Several organizations have undertaken work on this issue, some of it prior to the Global Conference. For example, UNCTAD and CARICOM commissioned studies in 1992 and 1993, respectively, that have resulted in a seminal literature. 3/ More recently, in 1996 the Commonwealth secretariat commissioned a study (not yet published) on the measurement of the vulnerability of small States. ESCAP has also begun work on a vulnerability index, particularly for Pacific small island developing States. The emerging body of work addresses issues of economic vulnerability, including vulnerability arising from environmental fragility; the incidence of natural disasters on a national scale; smallness; and distance from markets. Issues of economic vulnerability are also addressed in the work of the Committee for Development Planning on criteria for the identification of least developed countries. A working group of the Committee is scheduled to meet from 13 to 15 January 1997 to review the list of least developed countries and consider possible improvements in the criteria for identifying them, as provided for in General Assembly resolution 46/206. Several Committee members have expressed interest in the issue of a vulnerability index for small island developing States. The Department for Policy Coordination on Sustainable Development has planned to convene in 1996/97 an expert group on a vulnerability index, in collaboration with UNCTAD and other relevant organizations, as requested in General Assembly resolution 50/116.

III. IMPLEMENTATION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

35. The present section of the report gives an account of implementation at t regional level. It focuses on the main small island developing States regions for which current data is available, specifically on the activities of the regional commissions and other regional intergovernmental bodies.

A. The African region

36. The Economic Commission for Africa has reported that its activities and programmes for implementation of the Programme of Action have continued as reflected in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/50/422 and Add.1) Those programmes were initiated jointly with UNDP.

37. The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is currently in the process of implementing a regional environment programme, entitled "Appui aux programme environnementaux dans les pays de la COI". The objective of the programme is provide support to national policies for integrated management of coastal area and it is being funded under the financial and technical cooperation provision of the Lomé IV Convention between the European Community (EC) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. The regional programme focuses on the following five areas: elimination and management of solid wastes; elimination and management of liquid wastes; hydrocarbon pollution; air pollution; and wat pollution by toxic wastes.

38. Under the Lomé IV Convention, the EC has also provided assistance to Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe as part of its regional programmes for West an Central Africa, respectively. Assistance to Cape Verde has concentrated on development of the capital, Praia, and on electricity, drinking water supplies and health care, while assistance to Sao Tome and Principe has supported fisheries development, the protection of forest ecosystems and the revamping o economic infrastructures. In Mauritius and Seychelles, EC resources have been directed to environmental protection and management, and coastal area manageme for the tourism industry.

B. The Caribbean region

39. The subregional headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for the Caribbean has directed some of its efforts i the reporting period to a number of publications dealing with matters relevant to small island developing States of that subregion. In addition, a programme of implementation and the necessary institutional mechanisms are in the proces of being finalized to facilitate coordination and implementation at the region level. The proposed structure will include the establishment of a joint coordinating unit and a regional consultative group, while the work programme will emphasize capacity-building, information management, public awareness and financing.

40. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), operating as the regional office for the World Health Organization (WHO), provides assistance to Caribbe

small island developing States in the context of the "Caribbean cooperation for health" plan. The specific actions pursued under the plan are in the area of water supply and sanitation, solid waste management, disaster preparedness and response, health services and environmental management. A five-year operational plan has been developed as part of the OECS strategy for sustainable development; the plan centres on the concept of island systems management, and will address resource management priorities identified by the Eastern Caribbean States.

41. The Caribbean will also benefit from a GEF-financed project entitled "Caribbean: planning for adaptation to global climate change". The project was developed and will be managed by the Organization of American States (OAS) as executing agency for the World Bank, with start-up scheduled for September 1996. The project will assist Governments and regional institutions in strengthening capability for monitoring and analysing climate and sea level trends; identify areas vulnerable to the effects of climate change and sea level rise; develop an integrated management and planning framework; enhance regional and national capabilities through human resource development and institutional strengthening; identify and assess policy operations and instruments; and collect information for preparing national communications. OAS has also continued the implementation of a five-year Caribbean disaster mitigation project funded by USAID.

42. EC support has targeted tourism development, trade promotion, infrastructure development, and capacity-building at the national and regional levels. Environmental awareness-building through education and training programmes, institution-strengthening and the development of information systems are expected to benefit from EC regional allocations under the seventh European Development Fund.

C. The Asia and Pacific region

43. ESCAP has reported the convening in November 1995 of the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific. Among other things, the Conference considered actions to achieve the objectives of the Programme of Action. Inputs from Pacific island countries for the Conference were generated through a preparatory meeting held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, organized by the ESCAP Pacific Operation Centre (ESCAP/POC).

44. Other initiatives undertaken by ESCAP were the preparation of a case study on the incorporation of sustainable development considerations into economic decision-making for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; the preparation of a state-of-the-environment report for Pacific island countries; the organization of several training courses, and the convening of workshops and seminars on trade and investment, tourism, statistics, remote sensing and GIS and other aspects of sustainable development; the publication of manuals and guidelines on hazardous waste management and sustainable tourism development; and the provision of technical assistance and advisory services. Progress has also been made in the development of sustainable development indicators, beginning with data collection in the economic sphere. Efforts are under way to develop a

vulnerability index for Pacific small island developing States. Trial computations have been made for some countries, using selected indicators.

45. EC support to the Pacific, at the regional level, is being provided through SPREP for the protection of biodiversity, coastal zone management and solid waste management. EC assistance has also been provided for sustainable tourism development, fisheries surveillance, and tuna resource assessment.

46. SPREP has reported convening jointly with ESCAP/POC, in October 1995, the first meeting of its Advisory Committee to coordinate and facilitate implementation of the Programme of Action. The SPREP has updated specific regional initiatives in each of the 14 substantive programme areas, including the convening of regional workshops and annual meetings of meteorological service directors and climate scientists in the area of climate change. A strategy for the protection of the marine environment in the Pacific region has been developed through the collaboration of SPREP, the South Pacific Forum secretariat and a number of bilateral and multilateral agencies; implementation of the strategy is expected to commence in the course of 1996. Implementation of the Regional Waste Minimization and Management and Pollution Prevention Programme has recently begun; SPREP is acting as coordinator of the Programme. In the area of management of waste, several training workshops in marine pollution assessment have been held, and a regional programme of targeted waste awareness and education campaigns, to be executed by SPREP, will commence soon.

IV. PROGRESS IN NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

47. The present section of the report summarizes information on action taken at the national level to implement the provisions of the Programme of Action. Information on national action was received from 12 small island developing States Governments (see list in annex II). That information was supplemented by information made available by the United Nations and non-United Nations regional organizations.

A. The African region

48. In the Atlantic, the Government of Sao Tomé and Principe is reportedly collaborating with European bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations in national projects for forestry and environmental protection. The Government has instituted a requirement that investors should report on the environmental impact of their activities.

49. In Cape Verde, activities appear to be focused on the implementation of a long-term tourism development plan that envisages broad improvements in the physical infrastructure of the country, particularly its capital, along with the enactment of appropriate legislation, the establishment of a tourism development fund and improvement in tourism statistical data collection. Implementation of the plan is heavily dependent on funding by bilateral and multilateral sources.

50. In the Indian Ocean, the Government of Comoros has adopted a national environment policy document and an environmental plan of action, which together provide the basis for sustainable development and natural resource utilization policies. A large project for the preservation of biodiversity, to be financed by GEF, has been formulated for approval and implementation. The Government of Mauritius has also embarked on plans and programmes aimed at ensuring sustainable utilization of the country's resources for development. A major focus is on monitoring and controlling developments in the coastal areas. Planning controls are being strengthened to ensure that standards for new developments are adhered to, including restrictions on building height, size, location and use of materials. Laws have been enacted to provide for the issuing of development certificates, which include significant tax exemption and other incentives for compliance. Plans for the construction of hotels are now required to include sewerage treatment facilities as a compulsory element, and the regulation of yachting is to be addressed in legislation currently under consideration.

51. Since the adoption in September 1994 of legislation requiring the conduct of environmental impact assessments for all projects, the Government of Seychelles has directed its efforts at strengthening the regulatory framework for giving effect to the legislation. Meetings were held in December 1995 and March 1996 to discuss the application of the legislation in specific locations, especially sensitive areas. The training of staff in various aspects of the regulations is under way. Specific field activities have been reported, with programmes in pollution control and monitoring; waste management; water resources management; energy policy and conservation; forest management; and marine resources management. In the area of waste management, the Government recently expressed its interest in attracting private investment in developing a solid waste treatment scheme for Mahe, under a build-own-operate-transfer formula. In the area of energy, the Government hopes to secure adequate funding through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for implementing an energy conservation and efficiency programme that was designed in 1988 but was never fully implemented because of lack of financing. The current requirement is for US$ 250,000 in assistance to revise, implement and monitor a downscaled version of the project.

B. The Caribbean region

52. A number of legislative actions have been taken by the Government of Barbados. An environmental levy has been introduced to defray the cost of disposal of refuse generated by imported goods. Town and country planning legislation has been amended effective January 1996, making mandatory the provision of water-storage tanks by certain categories of residential, commercial, industrial and other buildings. Also, a final draft of a national building code for Barbados has been completed, and a draft bill on coastal zone management has been prepared by the Government. The bill aims at further strengthening regulations for coastal zone development, and will include a coastal zone management plan and a guide to coastal activities. Consideration is being given to the establishment of a Barbados building authority, with responsibility for implementing the national building code. Technical and

professional staff have been added to strengthen the relevant government ministry dealing with the environment.

53. Other current activities include the ongoing clean-up of beaches and the launching of a community care project with the theme "Our earth, our habitat, our home". A national project, entitled "Environmental management and land-use planning for sustainable development", will commence shortly, and several sectoral projects are at various stages of preparation.

54. In view of the importance of tourism to the Bahamas, the Government of the Bahamas has centred much of its activities on the development of eco-tourism resources, in particular the development and conservation of the resources of its outer islands. It has initiated a project that will include a review of the country's natural resource base; the identification and promulgation of necessary legislation; capacity-building and institutional strengthening; water resource use and waste-water operations; public awareness; and the development of data banks. In Saint Lucia, the conduct of environmental impact assessments has been made mandatory for all investments with the review and updating of the Developmental Control Act. The country's Water and Sewerage Authority Act has also been revised, resulting in the introduction of tariffs for water use. Various other projects are either in place or under review by the Government, including the rehabilitation of sewage treatment and collection, and a coastal zone development project for the island's north-western corridor.

55. The Government of Cuba is in the process of reviewing existing environmental legislation with a view to elaborating a new framework legislation for the environment. A number of changes are already in progress, including the systematic development of technical norms; the passage of legislation in 1995, requiring mandatory environmental impact assessments for a number of economic activities in coastal areas, particularly in tourism; the approval of mining and external investment laws in 1994/95; and the preparation of legislation for coastal areas. A number of fiscal measures have also been instituted, including the introduction in August 1994 of an environmental tax covering the use and exploitation of all natural resources, and the development of a system of economic incentives for marine environmental protection. Additional instruments are being considered in the context of a proposed new law of taxes. The Government has reported much progress in the collection, reuse and recycling of certain industrial wastes, such as paper, cardboard, metals, glass, plastics, tyres, waste oil and lubricating grease. The establishment of a national centre for biodiversity and a biological security group are among the institutional arrangements put in place by the Government of Cuba to oversee the conservation of biodiversity. The Government reported that due to the current economic crisis facing the country and the effects of a trade embargo maintained by the Government of the United States of America, progress in realizing its goals is severely constrained by the lack of finance and appropriate technology.

C. The Asia and Pacific region

56. Samoa has reported slow progress in the implementation of its national environmental management strategy in a number of areas, including data collection and national reporting. The main hindrance to progress has been the

lack of institutional and human resource capacity. However, four priority target environment components are being developed under the strategy's Capacity 21 programme, namely, waste management, population issues, water supply and land use. In 1995, a Montreal Protocol task team involving 12 government departments was established, and has begun work on developing policies and methods to gradually phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances. A draft country programme is being prepared and funding assistance is being awaited from the Montreal Protocol secretariat. A national biodiversity policy committee was formed in December 1995, in keeping with the country's obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity. A draft document on Samoa's biodiversity conservation strategy is being finalized for implementation and a number of conservation areas are in the process of being established. In the area of climate change, two national workshops have been held and studies have been undertaken on greenhouse gas sources and sinks. Funding has been received through GEF to assist in meeting national reporting obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Workshops and programmes on assessing sea level rise activities, vulnerability and adaptation are continuing. In addition, programmes have been developed for water resource management, mangrove conservation and conservation of land resources.

57. Fiji has developed a preparedness plan for oil and chemical spills, but other countries in the Asia and Pacific region remain unprepared for such eventualities. Little has been done to develop national strategies for adaptation to climate change, although it is expected that the foundation for such strategies will emerge from ongoing work on vulnerability to climate change.

58. Samoa has instituted a deposit/refund system for beverage bottles, while Micronesia has taken similar action on aluminum cans. Biological toilets are being tried out in Micronesia, Kiribati and Palau. All the Pacific small island developing States, however, suffer from an acute lack of port facilities for ship-borne waste, mainly due to limited financial and other resources. Similar limitations account also for the absence, in almost all cases, of programmes to promote community participation and raise public awareness in the area of waste management or environmental conservation in the Pacific. Only Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Kiribati have reported progress in implementing integrated coastal area management plans. The lack of data throughout the region for monitoring coastal area management further inhibits progress. The widespread lack of trained personnel, technical equipment and appropriate data on water resources has also meant limited progress in the area of freshwater resources, as well as in land resources.

59. The Government of Maldives has established a task force, which began work in 1996, to review current national legislation on environmental management and examine the adequacy of the country's legislative and institutional frameworks. The Government has established a number of programmes to address beach erosion, and has started a programme of harbour-deepening using innovative methods. In 1995, 15 sites were designated as protected areas under the National Environment Protection Act, but is felt that there is need for more detailed studies on the country's marine ecosystem before designating additional sites as protected areas.

60. Other initiatives embarked on by Maldives include consultations for preparation of the national Agenda 21 report, begun in December 1995; a million tree programme, initiated in January 1996; an integrated reef resources management programme, and an enabling activity (capacity-building) initiative, with anticipated financing by GEF.

61. The Government of the Marshall Islands has reported that a number of legislative actions have been put in place requiring the conduct of environmental impact assessments for new projects, as well as for general environmental improvements. However, most of those regulations are not observed, mainly due to a lack of resources, both financial and technical, for their enforcement: the shortage of properly trained personnel for undertaking the preparation and review of environmental impact assessments and managing disease identification and control techniques among immigration officials has been identified as a most acute need. Waste management and disposal is another area of great concern for the authorities, given the rapid population growth rate, coupled with the development of the tourism sector and the increased traffic in passenger cruise ships. In order to address some of those weaknesses at the national level the Government has begun to encourage greater community participation in the development process, as well as a greater utilization of traditional knowledge, skills and practices.

D. The Mediterranean

62. In Cyprus, national sustainable development efforts in recent years have focused much on reorientation of policies and controls to ensure the long-term protection of the environment and the incorporation of environmental considerations in all economic and developmental activities. The approach is largely based on the recommendations of a major study by the World Bank, which, among other things, gave rise to a series of studies on the use of fiscal instruments for the promotion of environmental policy; a conservation and management plan for the Akamas Peninsula; a coastal zone protection and management plan; and hazardous waste management.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions

63. The organizations of the United Nations system have begun a number of new initiatives to implement the Programme of Action since mid-1995. Much of the effort has been directed at strengthening institutional and human-resource capacity, which is needed for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action. A number of initiatives have been taken in recent months, particularly at the international and regional levels, to deal with the consequences of climate change and sea level rise, signalling a growing recognition of the critical nature of such phenomena for small island developing States. However, the deep concern about the critical nature of these phenomena persists in small island developing States. The high level of activity at the regional level is especially notable: the relevant regional commissions, as well as several non-United Nations regional and subregional intergovernmental bodies, are

responding with new programmes and activities aimed mainly at waste management, capacity-building, water and sanitation, disaster preparedness and management of coastal areas.

64. The limited information obtained from national sources shows that a number of small island developing States have begun to implement parts of the Programme of Action that have especially high priority at the national level, including institution-building, particularly the strengthening of legislative frameworks; waste management; coastal area management; and to a lesser extent, the preservation of biodiversity. In order to enable an adequate review of action taken at the national level it will be important for small island developing States' authorities, with the assistance of relevant international organizations, as necessary, to provide information on all their major activities under the Programme of Action.

65. The cumulative record of implementation by the United Nations system since the Global Conference indicates that insufficient attention is being paid to some priority areas of the Programme of Action, in particular transport and communications; tourism; energy; science and technology; biodiversity resources; and climate change and sea level rise.

B. Recommendations for future action

66. The information contained in the present report supports the recommendations for future action to implement the Programme of Action contained in decision 4/16 of the Commission on Sustainable Development. 2/ The General Assembly may wish to endorse that decision.

67. The General Assembly may also wish to request the Committee for Development Planning to examine the report and recommendations of the expert group meeting on a vulnerability index for small island developing States, to be convened by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, in collaboration with UNCTAD and other relevant organizations, and may wish to request the Committee to make recommendations for consideration at its fifty-third session.

Notes

1/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 June 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. IC.

3/ See, for example, Lino Briguglio, "Small island developing States and their economic vulnerabilities", World Development, vol. 23, No. 9 (1995), pp. 1615-1632.

Annex I

List of small island developing States or areas

Africa

Cape Verde
Comoros
Mauritius
Sao Tome and Principe
Seychelles

Western Asia

Bahrain

Asia and the Pacific

Cook Islands
Fiji
Kiribati
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Micronesia
Nauru
Niue
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Samoa
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu

Europe

Cyprus
Malta

The Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Cuba
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Grenada
Haiti
Jamaica
Netherlands Antilles
Saint Lucia
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
United States Virgin Islands

Annex II

List of organizations and Governments that responded to the request for inputs to the present report

United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Civil Aviation Organization
International Telecommunication Union
International Trade Centre
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations International Drug Control Programme
Department of Humanitarian Affairs/International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Population Fund
United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
United Nations University
World Bank
World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization
World Meteorological Organization
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Non-United Nations regional bodies

Indian Ocean Commission
Organization of American States
Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
European Community
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Governments

Bahamas
Barbados
Cape Verde
Comoros
Cuba
Cyprus
Maldives
Marshall Islands
Mauritius
Samoa
Sao Tomé and Principe
Seychelles

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/355
13 September 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC/ENGLISH/FRENCH
RUSSIAN/SPANISH

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 27

NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	5
II.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS		5
	Angola		5
	Argentina		6
	Australia		6
	Bahamas		7
	Barbados		7
	Belarus		7
	Belgium		8
	Belize		8
	Bolivia		8

96-24243 (E) 151096

/...

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

Brazil 8

Bulgaria 9

Burkina Faso 9

Cambodia 9

Cape Verde 10

Chile 10

Colombia 10

Cuba 11

Cyprus 20

Democratic People's Republic of Korea 21

Denmark 21

Ecuador 21

France 21

Gambia 22

Germany 22

Ghana 22

Guyana 23

India 23

Iran (Islamic Republic of) 24

Iraq 24

Italy 25

Kenya 25

Lao People's Democratic Republic 25

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 25

/.

CONTENTS (continued)

	Page
Liechtenstein	26
Mauritius	26
Mexico	27
Mongolia	27
Myanmar	28
Namibia	28
Nepal	29
Netherlands	29
Nicaragua	29
Norway	30
Paraguay	30
Peru	30
Poland	31
Russian Federation	31
Saint Lucia	32
Slovenia	32
Spain	32
Sri Lanka	33
Syrian Arab Republic	33
Togo	33
Uganda	34
Ukraine	34
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	35

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Pag
	Uruguay		35
	Venezuela		35
	Viet Nam		36
III.	REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANS AND AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM	4 - 31	37
	A. United Nations Children's Fund	4 - 7	37
	B. United Nations Development Programme	8 - 25	37
	C. International Labour Office	26 - 27	40
	D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	28 - 29	40
	E. United Nations Industrial Development Organization	30 - 31	41

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 2 November 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/10, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", in which it requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and to submit it to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

2. Pursuant to that request, by a note dated 30 April 1996, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide him with any information they might wish to contribute to the preparation of his report.

3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and from organs and agencies of the United Nations system that had been received as at 5 September 1996. Further replies will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

ANGOLA

[Original: English]

[28 June 1996]

1. The Republic of Angola, as a Member of the United Nations, observes and respects the objectives and principles enunciated in the Charter of the Organization and, as a result, supports totally all measures aimed at promoting respect for those objectives and principles, as stated in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 50/10.

2. The Republic of Angola notes with concern that, instead of seeing positive signs leading us to presume that, through dialogue between the interested parties, an end would come to the blockade, the reality is that the Senate of the United States has considered even harsher measures to strengthen the wall that has surrounded the Republic of Cuba for more than 35 years in flagrant violation of the norms and principles that govern relations between independent and sovereign States.

3. It is opportune to point out that not only will Angola continue to abstain from taking any measures against Cuba such as those cited above, but it will also continue collaborating with the United Nations to realize its objectives with due respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

4. The Government of Angola regrets the fact that not one measure has been taken relative to the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba since the adoption of resolution 50/10, and it urges the international community to cooperate with the United Nations so that this blockade may be ended as quickly as possible. It is a blockade whose principal victims are millions of human beings in Cuba, condemned by this fact to inconceivable sacrifices.

ARGENTINA

[Original: Spanish]

[14 May 1996]

In the Argentine legal regime there is no law or measure of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 50/10.

AUSTRALIA

[Original: English]

[28 June 1996]

1. While Australia shares United States concerns about the need for improvements in areas of human rights and political freedoms in Cuba, we have made representations to the United States arguing that the most effective way of promoting reform in Cuba is through constructive engagement and dialogue rather than the imposition of economic sanctions. For some years now Australia has voted in favour of General Assembly resolutions calling for an end to the embargo against Cuba, the most recent of which was resolution 50/10.

2. Moreover, Australia has argued against the extraterritorial aspects of the so-called Helms-Burton legislation (the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, 1996), which is aimed at tightening the embargo against Cuba. The Australian Government regards these provisions as an excessive exercise of extraterritorial jurisdiction by a State which are not justified by principles of international law or comity. We have made representations to the United States Administration and Congress and - along with like-minded countries - in appropriate multilateral forums, arguing against the extraterritorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Law and in favour of a cooperative approach using multilaterally agreed principles and rules.

BAHAMAS

[Original: English]

[1 August 1996]

1. The Commonwealth of the Bahamas enjoys normal diplomatic and trade relations with the Republic of Cuba.

2. The Government of the Bahamas has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 50/10.

3. The Government of the Bahamas considers that United States trade policy towards Cuba is primarily a matter for those two Governments; nevertheless, it remains concerned about the extraterritorial aspects of the United States embargo.

BARBADOS

[Original: English]

[16 August 1996]

1. The Government of Barbados has no laws which in any way restrict the freedom of trade and navigation against Cuba.

2. Furthermore, Barbados has consistently voted in favour of the resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" since the resolution was first introduced in the General Assembly during the forty-sixth session in 1991.

BELARUS

[Original: English]

[11 July 1996]

1. The Republic of Belarus is interested in peaceful settlement of the conflict between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba by means of negotiations. Belarus stands for creation of the favourable conditions necessary for unrestricted trade development and economic cooperation between the Republic of Cuba and all other countries, including the United States of America.

2. In conformity with its obligations under the United Nations Charter and international law, the Republic of Belarus has neither adopted nor is planning to adopt laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 50/10 of 2 November 1995. Belarus reaffirms its support to the principles of the freedom of trade and navigation.

BELGIUM

[Original: French]

[11 July 1996]

The Belgian Government hereby informs the United Nations Secretariat that Belgium has neither adopted nor promulgated any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 50/10. Moreover, Belgium draws the Secretariat's attention to the statement by the Permanent Representative of Spain, speaking on behalf of the European Union in the debate on the above-mentioned resolution. The European Union declared its opposition to any application of laws and measures whose extraterritorial effects adversely affect freedom of trade and navigation and violate the sovereignty of independent States.

BELIZE

[Original: English]

[15 July 1996]

The Government of Belize has not adopted any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 50/10 which would inhibit freedom of trade and navigation of and with Cuba.

BOLIVIA

[Original: Spanish]

[12 June 1996]

The Government of the Republic of Bolivia has not adopted any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the resolution. Consequently, there are no provisions, measures or laws which the Government of Bolivia would have to repeal in this regard.

BRAZIL

[Original: English]

[1 June 1996]

1. Brazil reiterates its position that discriminatory trade practices and extraterritorial application of domestic laws run counter to the need for promoting dialogue and ensuring the prevalence of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. In accordance with resolution 50/10, Brazil did not promulgate or apply any law, regulation or measure the extraterritorial effects of which could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation.

3. Brazil's legal system does not recognize the validity of the application of measures with extraterritorial effects. Companies located in Brazil are subject exclusively to Brazilian legislation.

4. Measures by any country which violate the provisions of resolution 50/10, and which attempt to compel the citizens of a third country to obey foreign legislation, affect the interests of the international community as a whole and violate generally accepted principles of international law. They should be reviewed and changed, where appropriate, in order to bring them into conformity with international law.

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[21 July 1996]

No legislation or any other measures have been adopted or introduced by Bulgaria against Cuba.

BURKINA FASO

[Original: French]

[5 June 1996]

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 50/10, the Government of Burkina Faso has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to that resolution.

Burkina Faso is currently in full compliance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law which reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation.

CAMBODIA

[Original: French]

[5 July 1996]

The Royal Government of Cambodia, in accordance with the views it expressed at the fiftieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, believes that it is duty-bound to express its solidarity with the innocent people of Cuba and its

desire to see them freed from the embargo imposed against them for more than 30 years.

CAPE VERDE

[Original: English]

[24 June 1996]

The Government of Cape Verde has not taken any measures harmful to resolution 50/10.

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]

[15 July 1996]

1. Chile has refrained from applying or promulgating laws or regulations of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 50/10, a position which it has maintained since the adoption of the first resolution on the question at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

2. Chile co-sponsored and voted in favour of the resolution concerning the Helms-Burton Act that was adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) at its recent session in Panama.

The resolution on freedom of trade and investment in the hemisphere, instructed the Inter-American Legal Committee, at its next session and as a matter of priority, to consider, reach a conclusion and submit its opinion to the Permanent Council on the validity of the Helms-Burton legislation under international law, and it requested the Permanent Council to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution at the next OAS Assembly.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[12 July 1996]

1. The Government of Colombia has not promulgated any law or measure of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 50/10 that could affect the normal development of the economy or trade of the Republic of Cuba.

2. On the contrary, as a manifestation of its steadfast support for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of Colombia has joined with those who reject the promulgation of unilateral measures designed to serve as pressure tactics against other States,

particularly developing countries, or the attempt to apply domestic laws extraterritorially.

3. At the eleventh summit meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the heads of State or Government "called upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial measures and actions against Cuba which, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and to the principle of neighbourliness, cause huge material losses and economic damage".

4. Colombia has also expressed its concern at the passing of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, or Helms-Burton Act, because it disregards the fundamental principle of respect for the sovereignty of States and runs contrary to public international law by applying domestic law extraterritorially. Colombia also notes that the Act violates the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and contravenes the basic precepts of the World Trade Organization and other multilateral and regional organizations and the principles underlying international economic relations established in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

5. We consider that international cooperation is the only mechanism that can respond effectively to the increase in globalization and foster friendly relations between nations that allow for the building of a new, more just and equitable world order. Similarly, we reiterate our commitment to the principle of the peaceful, negotiated settlement of disputes and conflicts in accordance with international law.

CUBA

[Original: Spanish]

[8 July 1996]

1. The United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 50/10, took action for the fourth consecutive year on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

2. In adopting this resolution, Member States once again reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other principles of international law, such as respect for the sovereignty of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation.

3. Although this resolution urges Member States to refrain from applying measures "whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation", the Government of the United States of America has enacted new legislation aimed at increasing, exacerbating and internationalizing the blockade which has been used against Cuba for over three decades to stifle its economy and undermine its political, institutional

and social order. The blockade's impact on the Cuban people, who are being deprived of their means of basic subsistence, including food and medicines, is well known.

4. The attitude of the United States of America violates the spirit and letter of General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9 and 50/10 and affects not only the sovereignty of Cuba but also that of the other Member States which maintain economic, commercial and financial ties with it. The United States is ignoring the views of other States, international organizations and regional groups and even international public opinion.

5. The reports of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, contained in documents A/48/448, A/49/398 and Add.1 and A/50/401, reflect the systematic and progressive maintenance of the blockade by the United States of America against Cuba.

6. The last of these reports draws the international community's attention to the intensification of the economic aggression taking shape in the United States Congress with the bill known as the "Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act", or the Helms-Burton bill.

7. An amended and expanded version of this bill was enacted into United States law on 12 March 1996, despite the international community's rejection of it and the fact that the United States Administration had earlier opposed the bill because it was inconsistent with the obligations of the United States of America under the rules of the World Trade Organization and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and because of potential conflicts - indefensible under international law - with its allies.

8. The Act not only summarizes the entire previous body of legislation concerning the blockade against Cuba but also certifies and codifies the whole series of presidential decrees, executive orders and administrative decisions adopted in this regard.

9. The Helms-Burton Act has been enacted against a backdrop in which Cuba is striving to restructure its economy and achieve reintegration into the world market by its own efforts and abilities. The emergency economic programme, designed to deal with the effects of this situation, attenuate its impact and prevent some segments of society from being more adversely affected than others, at the same time creates the conditions to ward off an economic recession and lays the foundations for an incipient recovery process. This programme is being carried out in a situation where the United States of America is tightening its blockade.

10. The results of the Cuban Government's strategy have been successful. Compared to a slight economic growth of 0.7 per cent in 1994 and 2.5 per cent in 1994, the forecasted growth for 1996 is 5 per cent. In addition, the financial austerity programme has reduced the fiscal deficit from 7.4 per cent in 1994 to an estimated 3 per cent for 1996.

11. Cuba has adopted a series of economic reforms in a short period of time to adapt to the new conditions; these reforms have made it possible to introduce market mechanisms gradually and in an orderly fashion, with social consensus in a planned economy which, using its own resources, has begun the process of recovery.

12. The above-mentioned policies have also made it possible to preserve the main social achievements of the Cuban revolution, as attested to, for example, in the attainment of an infant mortality rate of 9.4 per 1,000 live births in 1995.

13. Cuba's resumption of international trade and the increase in foreign investments are crucial aspects of its new economic strategy. The successive blockades enacted by the United States of America, in particular the Helms-Burton Act, are precisely aimed at frustrating Cuba's efforts in this direction.

14. One of the pillars of the aforementioned General Assembly resolutions on this topic is the urging of all Member States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects which affect the sovereignty of other States. The Helms-Burton Act, by attempting to internationalize the blockade, not only affects Cuba but also establishes sanctions of various types against countries which have sovereignly decided to trade with or invest in Cuba, and against their enterprises, executives and their families.

15. Obviously, such provisions could affect virtually the whole of the international community, since the Government of the United States of America is trying to use them to dictate standards of behaviour, impose its own laws so that they supersede the laws and interests of other countries and tell these countries, under the threat of sanctions, what kind of relations they should have with other States.

16. Title I of the Act tries to give an international and binding character to the blockade through a Security Council decision, using the untenable argument that Cuba is a threat to international peace and security. The ridiculousness of this argument and, at the same time, the seriousness, responsibility and consistency of Cuba's actions, have been fully recognized by many different sectors of the international community.

17. Title I decides to withhold payments by the United States of America to international financial institutions which approve loans to Cuba. Such financial blackmail contradicts and violates the norms established by these institutions. Specifically, it ignores articles 8 and 9 of the International Monetary Fund Articles of Agreement; articles 6 and 10 of the World Bank agreement; article 8 of the International Development Association agreement; articles 2, 3 and 6 of the International Financial Corporation agreement; article 34 of the Convention Establishing the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency; and articles 2 and 11 of the Convention Establishing the Inter-American Development Bank. All these international legal instruments ban restrictions, regulations, controls or moratoria of any kind against their own actions or property.

18. In addition, this Title limits to an extreme degree the Cuban Government's opportunities and efforts to solve the problem of its external debt, since it provides for the extension of sanctions to countries which apply measures to swap, reduce or forgive Cuba's debts. Similar provisions have a negative impact in turn on the countries participating in such debt operations with Cuba.

19. This Title provides for the monitoring of Cuba's economic and commercial relations with third countries. This action involves greater and more effective supervision of all the institutions or companies that have commercial or financial relations with, or investments in, Cuba; this would reinforce the usual United States policy of aggression, intimidation and blackmail used against companies trading with Cuban entities.

20. Another violation contained in this Act is the prohibition of indirect financing in Cuba by United States companies and their subsidiaries, which infringes the internationally recognized principles of freedom of financing and investment and the subordination of subsidiary companies to the laws of the country of residence.

21. The impact of the Act on economic and commercial relations, especially relations with the countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, is determined by the direct sanctions which are to be used against these countries if they establish commercial relations with Cuba, on the basis of what the Act calls "non-market based trade". This involves absolutely normal commercial practices to facilitate trade in today's world.

22. The purpose of this policy is, without doubt, to tighten even further the restrictions on Cuba's access to the world market.

23. Title II is absolutely extraterritorial, since it attempts to decide Cuba's political, economic and institutional future from the United States of America. Furthermore, it subjects the lifting of the blockade and the establishment of relations of any kind with Cuba to a series of prerequisites, including political changes, a different economic system and, in particular, the unconditional return of property legitimately nationalized by the Cuban Government on or after 1 January 1959 to their former owners.

24. Title III, under the guise of requiring compensation or allowing claims for what the United States considers to be American property, is directly aimed at preventing foreign investment in Cuba.

25. The articles under this Title violate a series of internationally recognized principles and concepts, such as those which establish that:

- International claims are to be settled by bilateral agreement between the interested parties;

- The ownership of property is determined by the laws of the country in which it is located;

- A country's acts of confiscation of the property of its nationals do not constitute violations of international law, regardless of the amount involved or how they are carried out;

- A country's acts of confiscation of the property of its nationals are not subject to international law and may not be brought before the courts of another jurisdiction.

26. This Title explicitly orders United States courts not to accept the Act of State doctrine, thereby not only violating a generally accepted principle of international law but also ignoring the earlier practice and decisions of United States courts.

27. The essence of this provision, whose spirit pervades the Act, lies in ignoring the legality of nationalizations carried out by the Cuban State in exercise of its sovereign right. Document A/50/211 of 7 June 1995 further examines the legal grounds of these nationalizations and the compensation awarded or actions taken by the Cuban Government to indemnify the former owners.

28. In Title IV, the measures providing for exclusion or expulsion from the United States of America of those who "traffic" in nationalized property in large part constitute intimidation and blackmail of persons from third countries doing business with Cuba, and even worse, these measures affect their authorized representatives and close family members.

29. In a world that claims to be global and interdependent, the Helms-Burton Act contradicts not only the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations but also the Marrakesh Declaration and the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), of which both Cuba and the United States of America are founding members.

30. The Helms-Burton Act thus runs counter to the WTO objectives of reducing obstacles to trade and eliminating discriminatory treatment in international trade relations, since it seeks to obstruct Cuba's trade relations with other WTO members.

31. In fact, the fundamental principle of WTO is most-favoured-nation treatment, which implies an absence of discrimination between its members. However, the aforementioned Act clearly violates this principle in both the letter and the spirit by unilaterally providing for different treatment of Cuba based on political considerations which it also seeks to impose on other sovereign members of the organization.

32. Article XI of GATT calls for the elimination of quantitative restrictions on imports. Section 110 of the Helms-Burton Act, however, prohibits, inter alia, imports of sugar to the United States of America if the President of that country determines that the sugar is of Cuban origin; this constitutes a quantitative restriction on imports, which is permissible under article XI only under exceptional circumstances.

33. The Act also violates articles I, III and XIII of GATT 1994 as well as the provisions of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), especially the provisions of the annex relating to movement of service suppliers under the Agreement, and limits the freedom of access that must characterize trade in services, especially financial services, by denying financing to any person for transactions involving property that can be the object of a claim under the terms of this Act. Likewise, it clearly violates the principles of the Agreements on Measures relating to Commercial Investments, which are aimed at promoting and facilitating investment across international borders with a view to stimulating the economic growth of all trading partners, particularly the developing countries members of WTO.

34. The Act also violates, inter alia, chapters 11 and 16 of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), concerning investment and temporary entry for business persons respectively.

35. It contravenes the provisions of chapter 11, on investment, which stipulates that investors who are nationals of Mexico and Canada must be accorded treatment in accordance with international law, including fair and equitable treatment and full protection and security.

36. In addition, actions taken as the result of civil proceedings which may affect investments in the United States for the purpose of securing payment of damages under Title III of the Act may be considered to be incompatible with article 1110 of NAFTA.

37. Chapter 16 obliges the parties to grant temporary entry of business persons who meet the immigration requirements in effect on 1 January 1994. The Helms-Burton Act may contravene this chapter to the extent that it denies business persons entry into the United States of America in a manner incompatible with NAFTA.

38. As a result of the climate generated by the adoption of this Act, Cuban foreign trade enterprises have encountered restrictions on a market to which they had had access.

39. Denial of access to the United States market deprives Cuba of the market geographically closest to it, one from which no other country in the hemisphere is excluded. In addition, the prohibition against trade with Cuba imposed on subsidiaries of United States companies limits the rest of the world's market opportunities as well.

40. It is well known that Cuban enterprises have no commercial ties to any company under the jurisdiction or control of the United States of America.

41. With the entry into force of the Helms-Burton Act, access to the international market becomes subject to new limitations whose extent will depend on the attitudes taken by Governments and the business communities in various countries vis-à-vis its extraterritorial implications.

42. The Act also reaffirms one of the priorities of United States policy, which is to attack the pillars of the Cuban economy, first and foremost the sugar industry.

43. The fact that this ongoing practice predates the imposition of the economic, commercial and financial blockade has not prevented the United States Government from constantly implementing new measures to reinforce the blockade.

44. The Act reiterates the existing obstacles to the marketing of Cuban sugar products which consist of shutting Cuba out of the United States market and the New York Stock Exchange and stepping up practices aimed at discouraging the import of those products by third countries. To this end the United States authorities are imposing measures that hamper trade and, what is more, undermine the sovereignty of other States under the pretext of preventing Cuban sugar from reaching the United States market indirectly. Similar measures apply to nickel products, another mainstay of the Cuban economy.

45. It must be added here that the diplomatic propaganda campaign the United States Government is waging in connection with the Act is also intended to thwart, through intimidation, mechanisms which seek through various commercial means to bring about the recovery of the Cuban sugar industry and agriculture in general. The purpose of the campaign is to limit access, to the maximum extent possible, to chemical products (fertilizer, weed-killers and pesticides) and other inputs as well as to fuel, spare parts and equipment for maintaining the high level of mechanization in this sector.

46. The Helms-Burton Act is so inconsistent that one must question its viability. Its greatest impact to date has been the uncertainty it has created throughout the business world as to how widely it will be implemented and the fear it has provoked in persons who have absolutely nothing to do with politics yet find themselves becoming the target of sanctions simply for having operated freely in the business world.

47. The campaign of intimidation that was waged in 1995, one year prior to the enactment of the Helms-Burton Act, was reflected in the reactions of a number of companies that supply health-care products, particularly during the second half of that year. To cite two incidents, a Cuban import firm was denied the opportunity to negotiate the purchase of catheters for peritoneal dialysis, while another company found itself unable to supply cartridges and compressors for medical equipment as a result of the embargo.

48. The intimidating effect of the Helms-Burton Act has also held up certain commercial transactions, preventing the timely utilization of supplies in carrying out an activity of highest national priority.

49. The decisions of certain companies to use more efficient business methods in Cuba which would allow them to stay in the market longer have also been held up. In addition, the so-called "Cuba risk" factor has played an increasingly large role in relations between Cuban companies and their counterparts in third countries.

50. The first signs of the State Department's implementation of Title IV have been the pressure exerted on the Sherritt Gordon, Domos and Stet companies of Canada, Mexico and Italy, respectively. This policy is obviously intended to create a chain reaction of intimidation that will be felt by other foreign investors in Cuba.

51. As has been shown, the Helms-Burton Act reinforces the United States Government's traditional policy of imposing an economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba in order to strangle the country economically and force changes on the country's political, social and institutional order.

52. An analysis of Cuba's economic performance in 1995 shows that the blockade continued to have an adverse effect on the country's efforts to develop its economy and guarantee an adequate standard of living to the whole population.

53. The loss of the preferential United States sugar market, mentioned earlier, meant a loss of more than $260 million to the Cuban economy in 1995.

54. Public health continues to be one of the areas most directly and seriously affected by the blockade, given that the blockade limits opportunities for purchasing raw materials for the manufacture of medical and pharmaceutical products and disposable materials, finished goods and equipment, and spare parts for maintaining the health-care infrastructure; it also makes such purchases more expensive.

55. In this connection, it should be noted that the difference between the amount of air and sea freight paid in 1995 for medical supplies and the amount it would have cost to ship the same products from the United States or from American subsidiaries in the region is estimated at $2.7 million.

56. In addition, on three separate occasions it was announced that sales of medical research equipment, laboratory supplies for work with the immune system and diagnostic equipment would be suspended as a result of mergers or partnerships between third-country suppliers and American companies. One of these cases involved a long-standing relationship, and all the counterpart companies were distressed at having to take such a decision.

57. Another purpose of the blockade is obviously to affect the Cuban population by downplaying efforts to improve public health. Cuba's achievements in this field have been widely recognized and are reported in official documents of the United Nations system.

58. During the past year the cost of providing the country with such vital supplies as food, fuel, chemical products for agriculture and raw materials for industry has continued to rise.

59. The top priority of the Cuban economy today is feeding the population; many efforts are under way to achieve this objective. It should be stressed that these efforts are constantly affected by the blockade. It is estimated that more than $46 million could have been saved during the past year on purchases of a small group of basic foodstuffs to meet the population's basic needs if the

items could have been purchased on the United States market. Put another way, an additional $46 million could have been spent on food for the population.

60. Shipping costs for fuel have continued to rise as a result of the blockade: during 1995 they were 18 per cent to 30 per cent higher than in the preceding year.

61. This increase is directly attributable to the tightening of the blockade which has made the Cuban market a problematic one, so that relatively few vessels are available to ship goods there.

62. It is important to note here that shipping companies maintain special procedures for dealing with such shipments. These include constantly raising shipping charges on account of the "Cuba risk" factor and making Cuban companies pay high rates even though the vessels do not meet the requisite technical standards. This is due to the fact that access to United States ports is limited under the terms of the blockade.

63. The fact that Cuban companies must operate with such vessels makes shipping goods riskier, thereby driving up the premiums paid to insurers. This is especially true for the shipping of liquid cargoes such as fuels and chemicals that can pollute, where there is a higher risk of accidents which not only result in serious financial losses and damage to goods but can also cause serious harm to the environment.

64. The concerns and difficulties which have plagued shippers with commercial ties to American companies since the enactment of the Torricelli Act have increased since the enactment of the Helms-Burton Act, as reflected in an increase in the prices Cuban companies must pay for their services and a significant reduction in vessel availability. It is estimated that in 1995 alone costs were approximately $9 million higher than the market average.

65. As a result of the United States blockade, problems have recently been experienced with regular suppliers who have suspended some operations because certain parts of the items they have traditionally exported to Cuba are now produced in the United States. As a result, Cuban enterprises have had to turn to substitutes that are of inferior quality, less effective and more expensive.

66. For example, it is estimated that purchases of essential chemicals for agriculture have cost an additional $6 million.

67. In addition, Cuba continues to face high credit costs in meeting its basic import needs. It is estimated that in 1995 financing accounted, on average, for 13 per cent of the value of the loans, rising on occasion to 20 per cent, with the rate increasing as the blockade was tightened.

68. All this must be added to the rising trend in world commodity prices, as is the case with foodstuffs, the combined effect of which is a diminishing of Cuba's purchasing power. The country is thus forced to earmark a growing portion of its export earnings to pay for every item it imports.

69. The cost of operating Cuban aircraft is also increasing as it becomes impossible for them to use international air corridors over the United States of America on flights to Canada.

70. The blockade also poses obstacles to the purchase of inputs, spare parts and additional aviation and navigation safety equipment and repair and maintenance, and prevents Cuba from purchasing aircraft with American technology.

71. The blockade measures affecting civil aviation contravene a whole series of provisions of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Chicago Convention, to which the United States of America is a signatory.

72. Another ongoing effect of the blockade on the Cuban economy derives from the prohibition against using United States dollars in transactions relating to Cuba. As a result, Cuba and its trading partners must rely on currency markets, thereby adding banking costs and introducing additional risk.

73. The examples given here are indicative of some of the effects of the United States economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba during the period covered by this report. The effect of this policy, however, is cumulative and deleterious, and permeates every aspect of Cuban life. Its purpose remains the same - to bring about the total collapse of a country so that the population will take action that will put a halt to the revolutionary process.

74. The Government of Cuba will continue to make every possible effort within the context of its new economic strategy to progress in its development and to continue to maintain the principal social achievements that the people of Cuba have enjoyed over the past 37 years.

75. The international community's rejection of such blockade policies as seen in its adoption of successive resolutions on this topic has once again become evident since the enactment of the Helms-Burton Act.

76. The Government of the Republic of Cuba and the entire population of the country are confident that the international community will take effective measures to combat the maintenance and intensification of this policy, which is in violation of important principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[30 May 1996]

Cyprus does not favour any attempt to enforce laws in its territory that are promulgated by other States. It is therefore opposed to the adoption of any measures that have extraterritorial application on its territory.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

[Original: English]

[15 July 1996]

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea supported the resolution when the General Assembly adopted it on 2 November 1996. There are no laws or regulations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which violate the sovereignty of, and freedom of trade with, Cuba. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is developing and strengthening commercial relations with Cuba.

DENMARK

[Original: English]

[8 July 1996]

Denmark has not implemented any measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 50/10.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[7 July 1996]

With reference to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 50/10, Ecuador has not promulgated, and will not promulgate in future, laws which run counter to the freedom of international trade and which violate the principle of non-interference in the internal and international policy of States; this principle is expressly recognized in the Political Constitution of Ecuador and is present in each and all of the legal, political and economic activities of Ecuador, at both the domestic and international levels.

FRANCE

[Original: French]

[21 August 1996]

1. France does not apply any law or measure of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 50/10. France has consistently expressed its opposition to the promulgation and application, by States Members of the United Nations, of laws and regulations whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation. In its view, such measures violate the general principles of public international law.

2. France, together with its European Union partners, has regularly restated its adherence to these principles.

GAMBIA

[Original: English]

[24 July 1996]

The Gambia does not support the continued application of laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 50/10. In this connection the Gambia will not support any act or event with wide extraterritorial impact and contrary to the spirit and letter of that resolution.

GERMANY

[Original: English]

[12 July 1996]

1. Germany does not apply any law or measure of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 50/10.

2. Germany has consistently expressed its opposition to the promulgation and application by States Members of the United Nations of laws and regulations whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation. In its view, such measures violate the general principles of public international law.

3. Germany, together with its European partners, has regularly affirmed its adherence to these principles.

GHANA

[Original: English]

[22 July 1996]

1. The Government of Ghana views with great concern the persistent non-compliance with General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9 and 50/10, which seek to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba.

2. The promulgation of the Helms-Burton Act, aimed at tightening the economic blockade against Cuba, as well as punishing third countries which want to do business with Cuba is not only an affront to the international community but also against the principles of the United Nations Charter, namely the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States as well as freedom of international trade and navigation. The Government of Ghana has

therefore issued a public statement condemning the Helms-Burton Act. The Governments of Canada and Mexico, the European Union and even the Organization of American States have also condemned the extraterritorial nature of the Helms-Burton Act.

3. Accordingly, the Government of Ghana will continue to support Cuba against the unjustified economic blockade imposed by the United States. Similarly, the promulgation of laws of extraterritorial application anywhere in the world must be condemned.

GUYANA

[Original: English]

[2 July 1996]

Guyana fully supported the resolution and voted in its favour. Guyana, therefore, is committed to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of resolution 50/10 and honours its mandate.

INDIA

[Original: English]

[18 July 1996]

1. India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble of the above-mentioned resolution and as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures would not arise.

2. India has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by one country which impinge on the sovereignty of another country. In this connection, the official spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs made the following statement on 21 March 1996:

> "The Government of India's attention has been drawn to the recent enactment by the United States of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (Helms-Burton Bill)."

3. India has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by one country which impinge on the sovereignty of another county. This includes any attempt to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

4. India recalls the statement of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on this subject issued on 19 March 1996 (A/51/85, annex) and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

[Original: English]

[30 July 1996]

1. In line with its support for General Assembly resolution 50/10, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba contravenes all rules and principles governing international relations, the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the conventions and principles concerning international trade. The continued United States economic, trade and financial embargo against Cuba, which has caused both serious suffering to the people of that country and a crisis in world trade and financial relations, is in defiance of the current international trend where attempts are being made to de-escalate tension and further expand trade relations worldwide.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran further believes that the objective behind these coercive measures is to create economic and political instability in other countries which in turn undermine international peace and security. Therefore, such actions should be categorically condemned by the international community and, accordingly, appropriate steps should be taken to revoke them, and to prevent similar actions in the future.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[1 July 1996]

The Government of Iraq has not promulgated and does not intend to promulgate any domestic laws or regulations that infringe upon the sovereignty of other States or endanger their economic and commercial interests. The Government of Iraq condemns in the strongest terms the practice of certain States of imposing arbitrary economic measures to be used as an instrument of political and economic coercion against the peoples of the world in order to humiliate them and deprive them of their basic rights to development, economic well-being and political independence. The enactment by the United States of America of laws and regulations purporting to impose an economic embargo on the Cuban people is to be regarded as a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, and it is aimed at achieving particular political objectives that bear no relation to international peace and security.

ITALY

[Original: English]

[12 August 1996]

Italy has not adopted and does not apply any law or measure of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/10.

KENYA

[Original: English]

[14 August 1996]

The Government of Kenya has not formulated, enacted or applied any such laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 50/10.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

[Original: French]

[10 July 1996]

The Lao People's Democratic Republic deeply regrets the continuation of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba. That embargo has now been strengthened, and even has an extraterritorial effect which is unprecedented in the history of international trade relations. For its part, given its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has never promulgated or applied laws and measures of this kind. It considers that such laws and measures interfere with the sovereignty of other States, as well as with freedom of trade and navigation.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[30 August 1996]

1. Consistent with its support for General Assembly resolution 50/10, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is opposed to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, considering that it contravenes the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Libya reaffirms that the best way to resolve disputes between States is to reach a peaceful settlement in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. In compliance with those purposes and principles and out of respect for international law, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has not promulgated or applied any laws such as those referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 50/10.

3. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been suffering under the iniquitous coercive measures imposed on it by the United States of America since 1986, which are similar to the sanctions imposed against Cuba. These measures have included the freezing of assets and also the placing of an embargo on the transfer of technology which, among other things, deprives Libyan students of the opportunity to pursue studies in this field in the United States of America. The United States Administration has recently tightened these sanctions with a law providing for punitive measures to be taken against third country companies that do business with Libya.

4. Since the imposition of these coercive measures is incompatible with the purposes of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya once again underscores paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 50/10 and urges the States concerned to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures such as those imposed on Cuba or any other country and to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate any that they currently apply.

LIECHTENSTEIN

[Original: English]

[10 July 1996]

The Principality of Liechtenstein has not promulgated or applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 50/10. The Liechtenstein Government is furthermore of the view that legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations of extraterritorial effects is inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

MAURITIUS

[Original: English]

[18 June 1996]

The Government of Mauritius has never promulgated any law or taken any measure towards an economic, commercial and financial embargo on Cuba.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[15 July 1996]

1. In accordance with its foreign policy principles and with the Charter of the United Nations, Mexico rejects the promulgation and application of laws and regulations whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation.

2. Mexico supports the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly concerning the necessity of ending the illegal embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba and is refraining from promulgating and applying laws of the kind referred to in those resolutions. In that respect, it is part of the majority trend of the international community, which rejects such actions.

3. Mexico reiterates its decision to establish, the trade and political links with Cuba which it deems the most appropriate, in full exercise of its sovereignty. At the same time, it has expressed its opposition to the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, known as the Helms-Burton Act, which was recently adopted by the United States of America.

4. Mexico considers that the promulgation and application of the Helms-Burton Act violates the principles of international law set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV)). In addition, it believes that the Act is contrary to the obligations assumed by the United States of America under international agreements such as the constituent act of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

5. The Government of Mexico, in full respect for the sovereignty and right of self-determination of States, reiterates its support for the norms and principles which govern relations among nations, endorses General Assembly resolution 50/10 and reaffirms that it is for the people of Cuba alone, in exercise of their inalienable rights, to continue to determine their political, economic and social organization in a free, sovereign and independent manner.

MONGOLIA

[Original: English]

[28 June 1996]

1. Mongolia voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 50/10 entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba". Mongolia strongly believes that promulgation and application by any Member State of laws and/or regulations

whose extraterritorial effects may affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities and persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation, are inconsistent with purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and those of contemporary international law.

2. Mongolia has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of resolution 50/10.

MYANMAR

[Original: English]

[11 July 1996]

1. Myanmar continues to maintain its consistent policy of strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of scrupulous respect, among others, for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs, freedom of trade and international navigation.

2. The Union of Myanmar is of the view that the promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction as well as the freedom of trade and the freedom of navigation violate the universally adopted principles of international law.

3. In this connection, Myanmar is deeply concerned about the extraterritorial aspects of the laws enacted against the Republic of Cuba.

4. In conformity with the above, the Union of Myanmar has not promulgated any laws and regulations of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 50/10.

NAMIBIA

[Original: English]

[8 August 1996]

1. The Government of the Republic of Namibia believes in the sovereignty of each nation-State and peaceful coexistence.

2. The Government of Namibia upholds the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

3. The Government of Namibia is having friendly and cooperative relations with both the Republic of Cuba and the United States of America.

4. The Government of the Republic of Namibia condemns the Helms/Burton legislation in that it is severely punitive, arbitrary and contrary to the rules of the World Trade Organization, as well as constituting an obstacle to the resolution of the dispute in the mutual interest of the parties. The Government thus urges both the United States of America and Cuba to begin serious negotiations to resolve all aspects of the long-standing dispute between them in the interest of peace, development, trade and good-neighbourliness.

NEPAL

[Original: English]

[26 June 1996]

Nepal enjoys excellent relations of friendship with Cuba and Nepal's economic, commercial and financial relations with Cuba conform essentially to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/10.

NETHERLANDS

[Original: English]

[15 July 1996]

In the Netherlands, no laws or other measures of the type referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 50/10 (1995) are applicable. Moreover, the Netherlands has serious concerns regarding laws and measures directed against Cuba with extraterritorial effects. These extraterritorial effects do not only affect the sovereignty of other States, but they also frustrate the freedom of trade and navigation and thereby violate general principles of public international law.

NICARAGUA

[Original: Spanish]

[9 July 1996]

1. Nicaragua rejects as a matter of principle economic and commercial embargoes as a means of applying political pressure.

2. Nicaragua maintains diplomatic relations with the Republic of Cuba.

NORWAY

[Original: English]

[6 August 1996]

Norway has not enacted an economic embargo against Cuba or adopted other measures contradictory to General Assembly resolution 50/10.

PARAGUAY

[Original: Spanish]

[15 July 1996]

The Government of the Republic of Paraguay has at no time adopted economic, commercial or financial measures related to the embargo imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba.

PERU

[Original: Spanish]

[20 June 1996]

1. No law or measure of the kind referred to in resolution 50/10 exists or has been applied in Peru. The Government of Peru does not accept the extraterritorial application of domestic laws.

2. In this respect, on 3 June 1996, at the twenty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru made the following comments about the Helms-Burton Act:

> "In OAS we have embarked on a new stage in the development of international law. Thus, the Panama Declaration on the inter-American contribution to the development and codification of international law is part of a new legislative effort for which the impetus derives from our own societies. Progressively, agreements and treaties are linking the legal structure with political action, converting law into a tool for peace, security and development. A related subject which is significant for the future of international law in the western hemisphere is the recent adoption by the United States of America of the Helms-Burton Act. This legislation infringes on the principle of State sovereignty by seeking an extraterritorial application of domestic law, in violation of the principles and norms of international law and the rules of free trade."

3. Peru's position on this matter is reflected in the provisions of the Final Declaration of the Fifth Ibero-American Summit, at the recent meeting of the Rio Group, whose participants agreed to coordinate the adoption of joint measures designed to prevent damage from that Act, and in the resolution on freedom of

trade and investment in the hemisphere adopted on 4 June 1996 by the General Assembly of OAS, which seeks the opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee on the validity under international law of the Helms-Burton Act.

4. The Government of Peru adheres to the common objectives of democracy, respect for human rights and economic freedom which link the countries of the western hemisphere.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[19 August 1996]

The Government of Poland enjoys normal diplomatic relations with the Government of Cuba. Poland has never promulgated nor applied in relation to Cuba any laws or measures which might entail infringement of the latter's sovereignty or violate the freedom of trade and navigation. The Government of Poland considers that the United States embargo against Cuba is a matter which should be resolved between the two interested States as soon as possible.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

[Original: Russian]

[17 July 1996]

1. In supporting in 1994 and 1995 the General Assembly resolution on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba, the Russian Federation was, and continues to be, guided by the firm consensus on that matter among the Members of the United Nations. Almost the entire world community, with few exceptions, regards the continuing commercial and economic embargo against Cuba imposed by the United States as a manifestation of the outdated mentality of confrontation between blocs. Most of the States of the world express their disagreement with the attempts by the United States to tighten up the embargo by associating the international community with it through the implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 12 March 1996. They rightly describe it as discriminatory and incompatible with the norms of international law and the principles of free trade.

2. Our view of the matter is that the lifting of the commercial, economic and financial embargo of the United States of America against Cuba in particular, and the normalization of United States-Cuban relations in general, would promote a more healthy international situation and would facilitate Cuba's inclusion in world economic relations and thus the advance of Cuban society towards democracy and greater openness.

3. As far as the Russian Federation directly is concerned, it is firmly guided by the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their

internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation mentioned in the resolution and supports, and intends to broaden, normal commercial and economic ties with Cuba based on mutual interest and reciprocal advantage and put into practice in strict conformity with generally accepted international norms without any form of discrimination and on the basis of world prices.

SAINT LUCIA

[Original: English]

[2 August 1996]

The Government of Saint Lucia noted with concern the signing into law by President William Clinton on 12 March 1996 of the Helms-Burton Act. The position of the Government of Saint Lucia is consistent with the ideas expressed by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that the Act, in and of itself, is contrary to international law because of its extraterritorial application, and runs contrary to the development of free trade in the region.

SLOVENIA

[Original: English]

[21 June 1996]

Slovenia has not promulgated and/or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 50/10.

SPAIN

[Original: Spanish]

[19 July 1996]

1. With regard to paragraph 2 of resolution 50/10, Spain has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures which might have entailed, in the case of Cuba, a violation of the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of trade and navigation, to which the preamble of resolution 50/10 refers.

2. Paragraph 3 of the resolution is not relevant, in that no such laws or measures exist in Spain.

3. Spain views with concern the adoption in 1996 of new laws with extraterritorial effects, adopted unilaterally.

SRI LANKA

[Original: English]

[13 August 1996]

Sri Lanka has neither promulgated nor applied any laws or measures which might affect the sovereignty of Cuban laws or any laws which violate the freedom of trade or navigation. The question of repealing or invalidating any laws in this respect does not therefore arise. Sri Lanka voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 50/10.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[18 July 1996]

The Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with its position of principle concerning the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", voted in favour of General Assembly resolution 50/10, which reaffirms the necessity of compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, and also urges States to take the necessary steps, as soon as possible, to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo that has been imposed on Cuba for over 30 years.

TOGO

[Original: French]

[23 August 1996]

1. The Government of Togo has continued to maintain good relations of cooperation with Cuba since the adoption, on 2 November 1995, of General Assembly resolution 50/10. Based on long-standing diplomatic relations and on the membership of both States in the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in particular, the links between Cuba and Togo have never been disrupted.

2. Thus, since the adoption by an overwhelming majority of the resolution in question, the two countries have continued their exchanges of views in order to seek ways and means of intensifying their relations of cooperation, particularly in the economic and social fields.

3. As one of the countries which, over the past three years, have successively taken a position in favour of lifting all economic, commercial and financial embargoes against Cuba, Togo has at no time promulgated or applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the resolution concerned.

4. Committed to the principles of freedom of trade and navigation, the Togolese Government believes that it is important to initiate a new approach to cooperation among States at a time when East-West antagonisms no longer hold sway, and it intends to work in this direction in order to help encourage Cuba to open up more to the noble principles which underlie the rule of law and, in particular, regulate current international relations.

UGANDA

[Original: English]

[31 July 1996]

The Republic of Uganda wishes to reiterate its support for resolution 50/10 and in particular the second and fifth preambular paragraphs and paragraphs 2 and 3.

UKRAINE

[Original: English]

[10 June 1996]

1. The Government of Ukraine, according to the foreign policy principles, has constantly observed the relevant provisions of resolution 50/10, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", adopted by the General Assembly on 2 November 1995.

2. The Government of Ukraine has pursued a policy of strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

3. Ukraine has not adopted any legislation or regulations whose extraterritorial effects might affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under Ukraine's jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and international navigation.

4. The Government of Ukraine does not accept the use of economic measures as a means of achieving political aims and upholds in its relations the fundamental principles of the Charter, the norms of international law and freedom of trade and navigation.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

[Original: English]

[20 August 1996]

1. The United Kingdom enjoys normal diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom has made clear its opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States embargo against Cuba in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms/Burton Act of 1996. In October 1992 the United Kingdom invoked the Protection of Trading Interests Act 1980. It is now an offence under United Kingdom law for any persons to comply with the specified parts of the United States Cuban Assets Control Regulations.

3. While the Government of the United Kingdom considers the United States trade policy towards Cuba is primarily a matter for those two Governments, it remains concerned about the extraterritorial aspects of the United States embargo and the Helms/Burton Act.

URUGUAY

[Original: Spanish]

[5 July 1996]

On the item "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", as in many other matters, Uruguay has maintained a foreign policy based on respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and in particular, the principle of freedom of international trade and navigation without any type of restrictions; for its part, Uruguay does not recognize in its legislation the extraterritorial application of domestic laws; therefore, the Government of the Republic has not applied any measures or laws of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 50/10.

VENEZUELA

[Original: Spanish]

[19 July 1996]

1. Venezuela reiterates the points it made in document A/48/448 of 28 September 1993.

2. In accordance with the views put forward in that document, it maintains its unwavering position in that it has not promulgated or applied any unilateral laws or measures whose extraterritorial effects are prejudicial to the sovereign actions and interests of other States. It has termed such action unacceptable.

3. In line with this position, Venezuela, in a multilateral context, has supported the resolutions adopted by the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Policy Action (the Rio Group), the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the Organization of American States rejecting the implementation of measures and regulations of this kind.

VIET NAM

[Original: French]

[6 June 1996]

1. The General Assembly, in its resolutions over the past few years, has called on the United States of America to abolish the embargo policies and laws applied against Cuba and has held them to be violations of international law in general and of trade laws and practices in particular. The resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries calling for an end to this blockade against Cuba reflect the international community's common concern about anachronistic extraterritorial laws and its aspiration to establish good relations among States for development cooperation on the basis of equality and non-discrimination of political and social regimes.

2. Despite the common aspiration of the international community and United Nations resolutions, the Helms-Burton Act strengthened the embargo against Cuba, thereby causing further difficulties in daily life and obstacles to the economic development of the Cuban people and damaging the trade relations of several countries with Cuba. This Act gave rise to vigorous protests.

3. Viet Nam continues to believe that the dispute between Cuba and the United States of America should be settled through dialogue and negotiations. Viet Nam has supported the United Nations resolutions and calls for the immediate ending of the embargo unilaterally applied by the United States of America against Cuba. Viet Nam believes that the Secretary-General, in his report to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, should establish effective measures to ensure the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions and recommend forms of assistance to the Cuban people to overcome the difficulties caused by the embargo policy.

4. The Vietnamese people and Government once again reaffirm their solidarity with the Cuban people. Viet Nam has undertaken and will undertake activities to support the Cuban people in their just struggle for national independence and the development of a prosperous country.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANS AND AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. United Nations Children's Fund

4. The situation of children in Cuba has been adversely affected by a number of factors including the embargo, as well as internal and other external factors. As with most such situations it is not possible to separate the combined negative effects of these factors. Cuba has still the lowest infant mortality rate in the Latin American and Caribbean region, 9 per 1,000 live births. However, between 1989 and 1993, the country's national product declined by 35 percent and, as a result, the situation of children is under serious pressure, and the sustainability of the extensive network of services benefiting children, women and families is in jeopardy.

5. The deterioration of Cuba's family health system is a cause of serious concern. The network of more than 25,000 family doctors' and nurses' offices that are responsible for primary health care, including education for health and preventive actions, is suffering from a shortage of medicines, basic surgical instruments and materials. This has a direct impact on the country's capacity to maintain its high levels of education and health of children, women and local communities, as these centres are the focal points for the promotion of breast-feeding, and the handling of the regular immunization programmes.

6. UNICEF is closely monitoring nutritional deficiencies. It is estimated that nearly 50 per cent of children under one year of age suffer from anaemia, with haemoglobin levels under 11 mg. At the end of 1995, women with low weight at the beginning of pregnancy constituted almost 12 per cent of pregnant women.

7. The water supply system continues to be a cause of serious concern. By mid-1996, the main plant for the production of chlorine was able only to function at 50 per cent of its capacity, due to the difficulties in obtaining spare parts and basic inputs. At the end of 1994, the level of water potability reached 40 per cent. Difficulties in obtaining supplies and the serious problems Cuba is facing in sustaining safe water and basic sanitation services are among the worst threats to children's health, as acute diarrhoeal diseases continue to increase.

B. United Nations Development Programme

8. The effects of the United States embargo on Cuba are diverse and mainly derived from its economic dimensions. As the economy affects in some way all of the nation's productive and social sectors, these effects are reflected, directly or indirectly, on almost all of the aspects of Cuban life.

9. However, not all these effects carry the same weight or level of impact, since they depend on its economic incidence. Thus, the consequences of the embargo cannot be generalized or standardized, but demand a detailed case-by-case analysis.

10. Three main areas are affected by the embargo: the economy, finances and social development.

11. In the economic area, the embargo has directly affected Cuba's foreign trade and indirectly the whole of economic activity. During the 1960s, Cuba was massively forced to reconvert its economic apparatus to adjust it to its new Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON) partners. A second reconversion was made necessary from the beginning of the decade of the 1990s due to the disappearance of this commercial area. According to official estimates by the Cuban Government, the impact on the economy and trade from 1960 to 1993 amounts to US$ 29.7 billion in direct effects and some US$ 6.4 billion in indirect effects.

12. In the financial area, the embargo has prevented Cuba's access to all sources of multilateral public financing (particularly the Bretton Woods institutions and the Interamerican Development Bank) while effectively deterring private investments, a process reinforced by the Helms-Burton Act. Official sources state that Cuba sustained direct damages of US$ 3.5 billion, while indirectly it has lost an additional US$ 3.3 billion (because of the impossibility of renegotiating its foreign debt).

13. In the social area, the embargo is threatening the achievements scored by the country as a result of the economic difficulties it is now facing (forced economic reconversion without external funding) and the indirect results on the functioning of basic social services (education, water and sanitation, public health, among others). Official figures estimate damages in this area amounting to US$ 1.3 billion since 1960.

The role of the United Nations system

14. As analysed by the United Nations system, the main challenge facing the Cuban Government is to increase the global supply of products and services while maintaining social services and the current level of equity.

15. The break-up of COMECON and the resulting loss of Cuba's close trading links with it, along with the strengthening of the embargo, have paralysed the national economy, forcing its restructuring and opening to the outside world. At the same time, both the economic difficulties and the reform process initiated have led to new challenges in terms of the functioning of basic services and maintaining equity.

16. In answer to these challenges, the United Nations system in Cuba, without affecting the specific mandates of each programme, fund and agency, is centring its efforts in the following areas:

- Supporting the restructuring process of the Cuban economy;

- Contributing to the consolidation and enhancement of social services;

- Promoting cooperation between Cuba and the rest of the world.

17. Working towards these goals, the system attempts above all to minimize the effects of the embargo on the Cuban population.

18. First, by supporting the process of restructuring and recovery of the Cuban economy towards higher productivity, improved management skills and efficiency, taking into account its direct impact on the welfare of the population.

19. Secondly, by supporting the consolidation of basic social sectors, such as health, education, food security and water and sanitation, which have such a direct impact on the quality of life of the Cuban people.

20. Lastly, promoting closer links by Cuba with the rest of the world in the most diverse walks of life (economy, science and technology, tourism), thus contributing to alleviate the isolation resulting from the embargo.

21. A description of the activities developed by each programme, fund and agency within its specific mandates follows.

UNDP

22. Within the framework of the Letter of Intent signed by UNDP and the Government of Cuba, initiatives implemented by UNDP are divided into those with short-, medium- and long-term effects. The implementation of these initiatives is being approached in an inter-agency fashion involving consensual participation by all concerned United Nations organizations in the country.

23. For the short term, initiatives include the organization of a first-ever donors' conference, held at Havana, to mobilize support for the water and sanitation sector. A similar initiative is under way for the health sector. For other social sectors, studies are being developed jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme and UNICEF in food security, and with UNESCO and UNICEF in education.

24. For the medium term, an agreement to proceed with an initiative to support the economic recovery of Cuba has been signed by the Government. The initiative will concentrate on strengthening managerial capacities within three Cuban economic Ministries (Finance and Prices, Economy and Planning, and Labour and Social Security), and the National Bank of Cuba. Also an in-depth study is being carried out by UNIDO to provide analysis and frameworks for the restructuring of Cuban industry.

25. For the long term, an initiative to foster the export capacity of Cuba in fields where it has reached significant scientific achievements, especially in biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, is at the planning stage. As well, support to a process aimed at exploring alternative scenarios for the development of the Cuban economy is being contemplated. Initiatives to facilitate the access of Cuba to global scientific and technical information networks and the promotion of links between research and production activities are also under preparation.

C. International Labour Office

26. With regard to the request made, it may be useful to recall that Cuba is treated in the same way as any other State member of the International Labour Organization. Cuba participates actively in the International Labour Conference and other pertinent ILO activities.

27. In correspondence last year between the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Cuba, the ILO stated its view that the United Nations was the appropriate forum to address the question of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

28. One of UNESCO's ongoing concerns is to advance the regional and international exchange of Cuban educators, scientists, intellectuals and artists, through expert missions or participation in meetings. Furthermore, to help bring Cuba into the flow of regional and international exchanges, the organization is launching a programme to encourage cultural tourism, which will promote the region's cultural and natural heritage. All these measures combine to offset the impact of the embargo.

29. With regard to financial and intellectual cooperation with Cuba, the following recent operations may be mentioned:

(a) In 1995, 5 million school notebooks were donated to kindergartens and primary schools, funded from extrabudgetary resources (US$ 217,000). An additional 2,700,000 notebooks financed by the organization's regular programme (US$ 120,000) will be distributed during 1996.

(b) Contribution of US$ 100,000 (extrabudgetary funds) for the setting up of a computer laboratory for children with severe speech problems located in the Miguel B. Díaz School, Havana, and intended for children throughout the country.

(c) Financial contribution of US$ 35,000 to continue restoration work on the Plaza Vieja in Havana, part of the heritage of humanity; technical and intellectual assistance through consultants to relaunch the international campaign to safeguard the Plaza.

(d) Financial and technical assistance for the Cultural Identity of Latin America and the Caribbean project, which is promoting exchanges of Cuban intellectuals with their colleagues elsewhere in the region. Similar assistance was given to the Ibero-American Meeting on Culture and Development, held at Havana in November 1995, with 300 participants.

(e) Financial contribution of US$ 30,000 to give continuity to the Serrana Television project, which will enable this area of Cuba to join the national communication network.

(f) Publication in Cuba of "Periolibros", through the weekly Juventud Rebelde. Cuba has thus been able to join the Ibero-American newspaper network distributing this newspaper book. In the same context, Cuba receives a donation of 23,000 copies of each monthly issue of the UNESCO Courier.

(g) A meeting on cultural tourism, development and identity arranged by the organization will take place in Havana, in November 1996; it will enable governmental authorities, business agents and experts to work together in a regional action programme on this subject.

(h) Financial and intellectual assistance to the meeting "Pedagogia 97", to take place in Havana in February 1997, with the participation of 5,000 teachers from Latin America and the Caribbean.

(i) Financial and technical assistance to training and action programmes related to the role of social sciences and society in the present Cuban economic and social context.

(j) Promotion of a regional programme on Sports for Peace with the technical assistance of Cuban physical education teachers and outstanding sportsmen.

E. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

30. UNIDO supports the industrial restructuring of Cuba. For that purpose, a strategy on the industrial sector is under preparation of investment promotion programmes and support to the small and medium-scale enterprises is also considered.

31. An Investment Promotion Centre and the preparation of a regional meeting of investment promotion in the field of the sugar cane industry and derivatives will take place in Havana in December of this year and be organized jointly with the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA).